SOUL EATER

ATSUSHI OHKUBO

11

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vol. 11

by ATSUSHI OHKUBO

FACE UP!
EYES HIGH!
BLAZE YOUR
SOULS!

SOUL EATER 11

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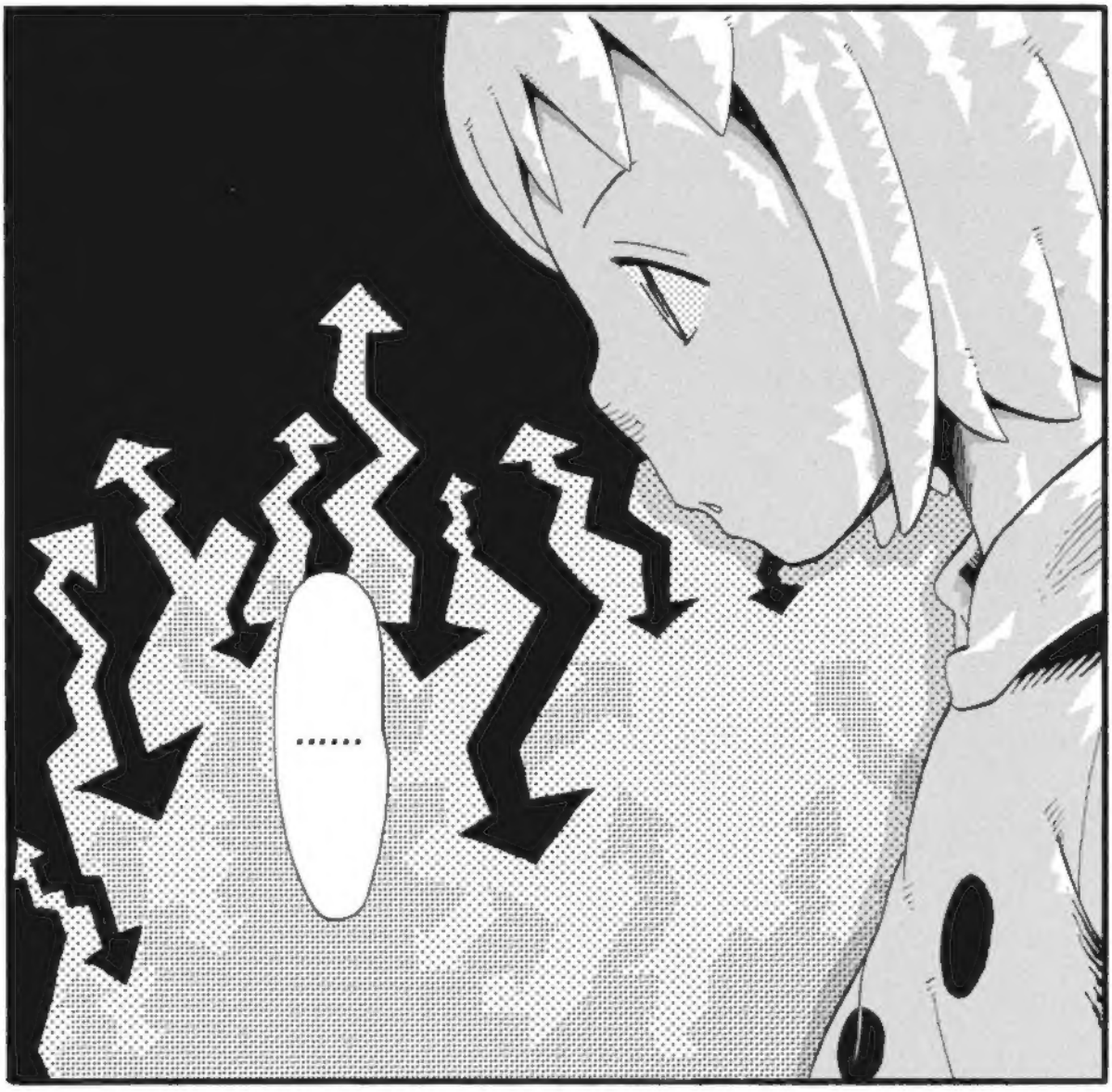
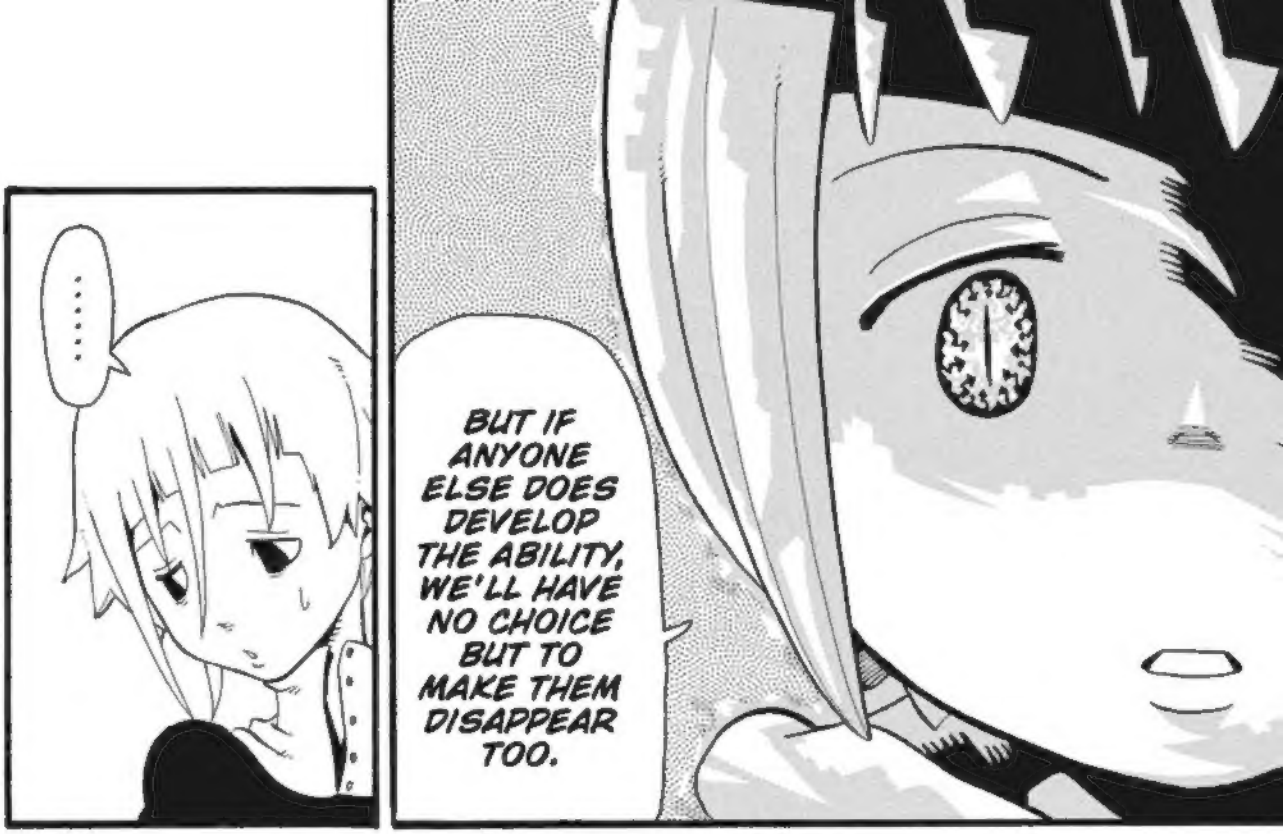
THAT WENT REALLY WELL, DIDN'T IT? POOR OLD STEIN IS FINISHED NOW.



SOUL EATER

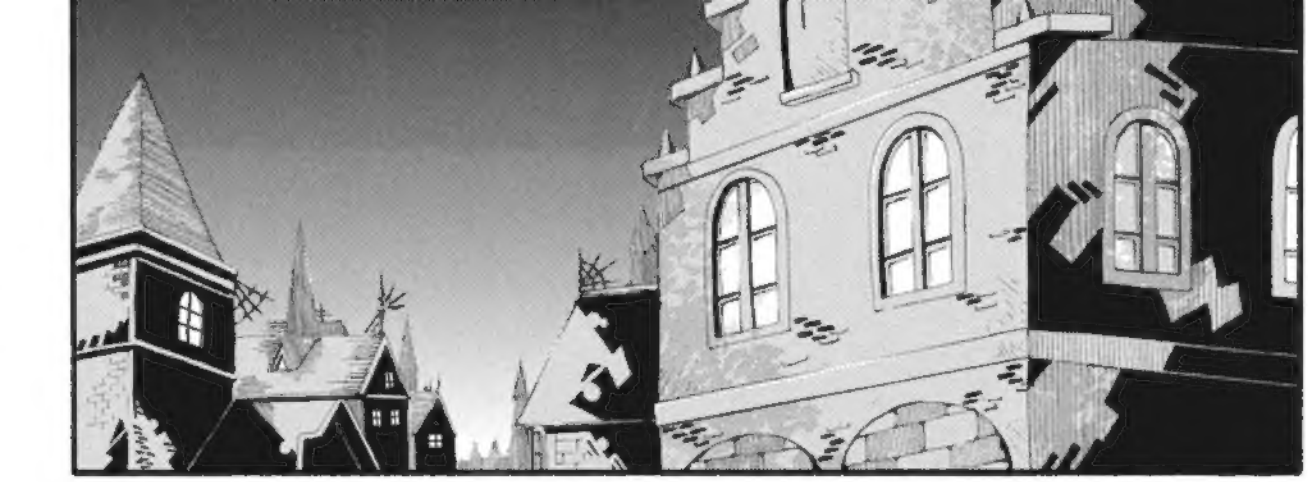
CHAPTER 40: RESOLVE

JUST BEFORE HE DIED, HE SOMEHOW BECAME AWARE OF OUR PRESENCE, EVEN THOUGH WE HAD SOUL PROTECT FIRMLY IN PLACE...
I'M JUST THINKING ABOUT THAT MAN WHO DIED... B.J.
I WONDER IF IT'S A NEW EVOLUTION OF SOUL PERCEPTION ABILITY...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MEDUSA? YOU LOOK REALLY DOWN.
EVERY-THING WENT ACCORD-ING TO PLAN...
RIB-BIT?
...
THE NUMBERS DON'T ADD UP...
THE OTHERS ARE STILL BACK AT THE HIDEOUT.
JUST THE TWO RIGHT HERE.
HOW MANY OF THE MIZUNES ARE HERE IN DEATH CITY RIGHT NOW?
NO...AS LONG AS NO ONE ELSE DEVELOPS THE ABILITY.
THE ONLY GUY IN THE WORLD WHO EVEN HAD THE ABILITY IS GONE NOW.
SO WHAT ABOUT THAT "SUPER" SOUL PERCEPTION, OR WHATEVER YOU WANNA CALL IT?
BUT EVERY-THING WORKED OUT JUST FINE, DIDN'T IT?
WE SHOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO WORRY ABOUT AT THIS POINT.


.....
BUT IF ANYONE ELSE DOES DEVELOP THE ABILITY, WE'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MAKE THEM DISAPPEAR TOO.

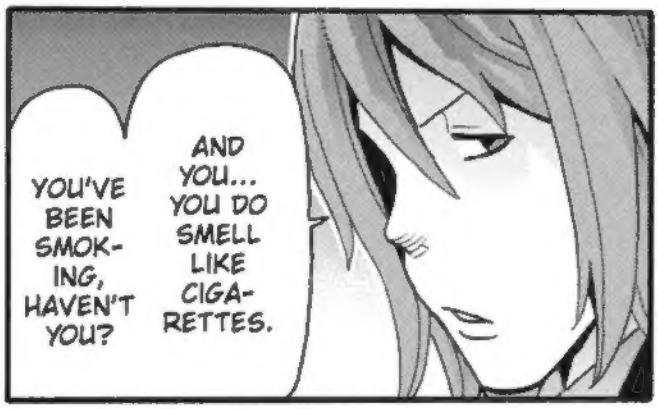
B.J.'S BEEN MUR-DERED...
STEIN, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.

.....
B.J. WAS...
WE'RE FRIENDS, STEIN...
...SO I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO PUT THE CUFFS ON YOU... JUST COME WITH US.

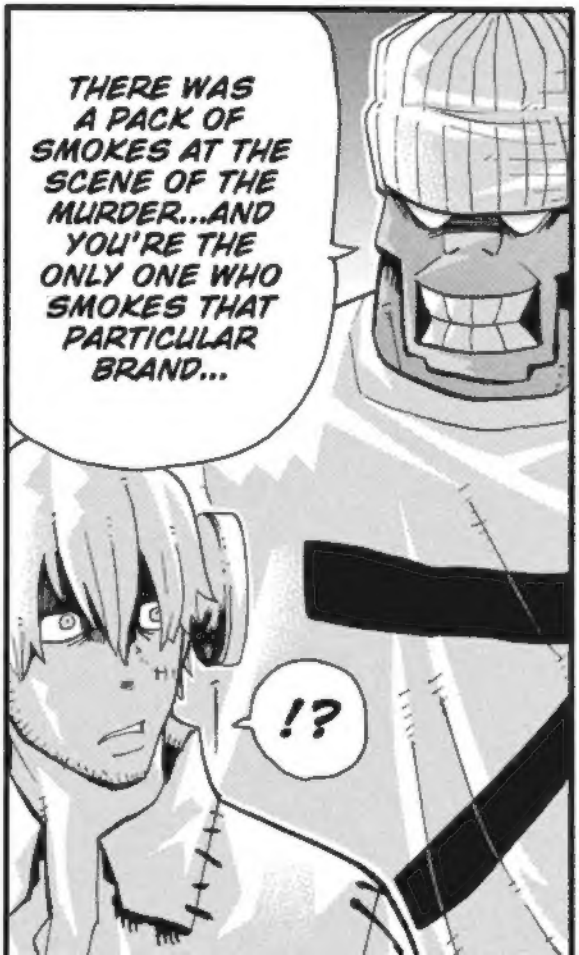


...AND I HAVEN'T SET FOOT OUTSIDE SINCE..WHAT MAKES YOU THINK IT WAS ME?
I WENT STRAIGHT HOME AFTER B.J. INTERRO-GATED ME..

WAIT A MINUTE, THERE'S BEEN SOME KIND OF MISTAKE.


YOU'VE BEEN SMOK-ING, HAVEN'T YOU?
AND YOU... YOU DO SMELL LIKE CIGA-RETTES.

.....


THERE WAS A PACK OF SMOKES AT THE SCENE OF THE MURDER...AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO SMOKES THAT PARTICULAR BRAND...
!?

OH MAN... YOU GUYS REALLY HAD ME GOING...
OKAY, YOU'VE HAD YOUR LITTLE JOKE...
...YOU WERE ALL TRYING TO SCARE ME JUST NOW, WEREN'T YOU...!?
SUR-PRIIISE!
HEH-HEH... WELL, YOU GOT ME, ALL RIGHT... BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO FALL FOR THAT ONE...
!?
KU KU KU KU!
YOU FIND THIS FUNNY...? WHAT'S THERE TO LAUGH ABOUT AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

CALM DOWN!
HEY ...
ARE YOU ALL STUPID OR SOME-THING!? LEAVE ME ALONE!!
I WAS IN THE LAB!! LEAVE ME THE HELL ALONE!!
BUT WHY ME!!?
YOU REALLY THINK WE'RE JOKING HERE?

IF YOU LOOK THE OTHER WAY AND LET ME GO RIGHT NOW, THEN I PROMISE I'LL GO LOOK FOR THE REAL KILLER MYSELF.
WAIT, I KNOW— HOW ABOUT WE MAKE A DEAL?
SID... LET ME GO...

AHH... AHHHH..... IT'S POSSIBLE THAT I ACTUALLY DID DO IT. I DON'T REMEMBER, BUT...
...I CAN'T TRUST MYSELF. I MIGHT'VE DONE IT...
ABSO-LUTELY.
STEIN'S NOT RIGHT IN THE HEAD... NOT AT THE MOMENT, ANYWAY.
HIS EMOTIONS... HIS TRAIN OF THOUGHT...THEY KEEP SWINGING WILDLY FROM ONE THING TO THE NEXT. HE'S NOT BEING COHERENT...
SO CAN I TRUST WHAT HE'S SAYING...?
I MEAN, COME ON... YOU'VE GOTTA BE PULLING MY LEG. RIGHT?
THIS REALLY IS A JOKE, RIGHT? SERIOUSLY.
STAND UP STRAIGHT AND WALK, STEIN...
HEY, C'MON ...

Z

WHERE ARE WE...?
...

YOU AREN'T TAKING ME BACK TO SHINIGAMI-SAMA?

MARIE
...

...IS IT TRUE THAT B.J.'S BEEN MURDERED?

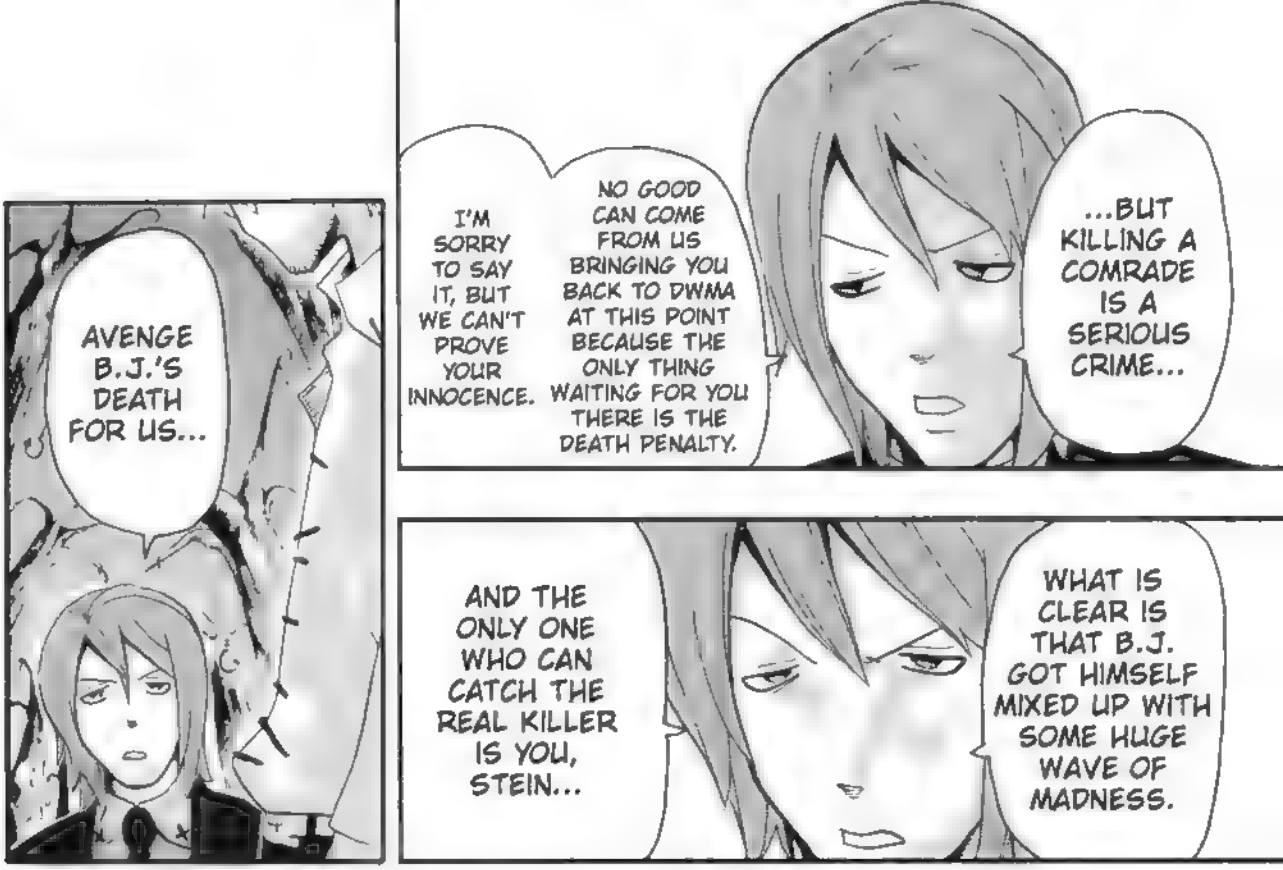
YEAH.

HIS CHEST WAS SPLIT WIDE OPEN WITH SOME KIND OF SHARP BLADE, AND HIS HEART WAS RIPPED THROUGH. THEY SAY HE DIED INSTANTLY.

NOT EVEN HIS SOUL REMAINED.

HERE WE ARE IN THIS GRAVEYARD, ALL GATHERED TOGETHER... AND WE CAN'T EVEN HOLD A SERVICE FOR HIM...
Z

STEIN, LISTEN ...
...NO ONE WHO'S STANDING HERE RIGHT NOW THINKS YOU DID IT...


...BUT KILLING A COMRADE IS A SERIOUS CRIME...
NO GOOD CAN COME FROM US BRINGING YOU BACK TO DWMA AT THIS POINT BECAUSE THE ONLY THING WAITING FOR YOU THERE IS THE DEATH PENALTY.
I'M SORRY TO SAY IT, BUT WE CAN'T PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE.
AVENGE B.J.'S DEATH FOR US...
WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT B.J. GOT HIMSELF MIXED UP WITH SOME HUGE WAVE OF MADNESS.
AND THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CATCH THE REAL KILLER IS YOU, STEIN...

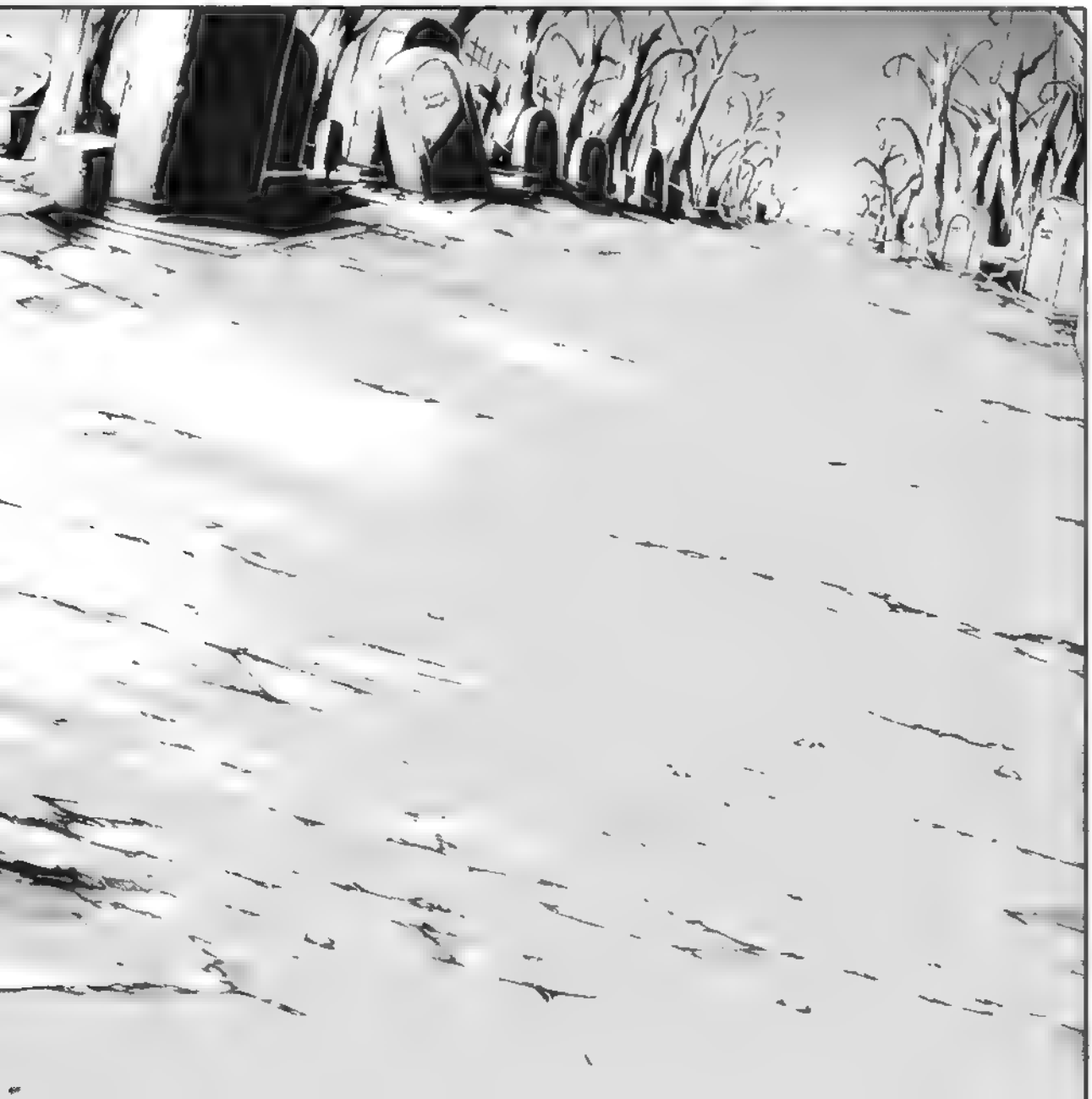
WE ALL BELIEVE IN YOU.

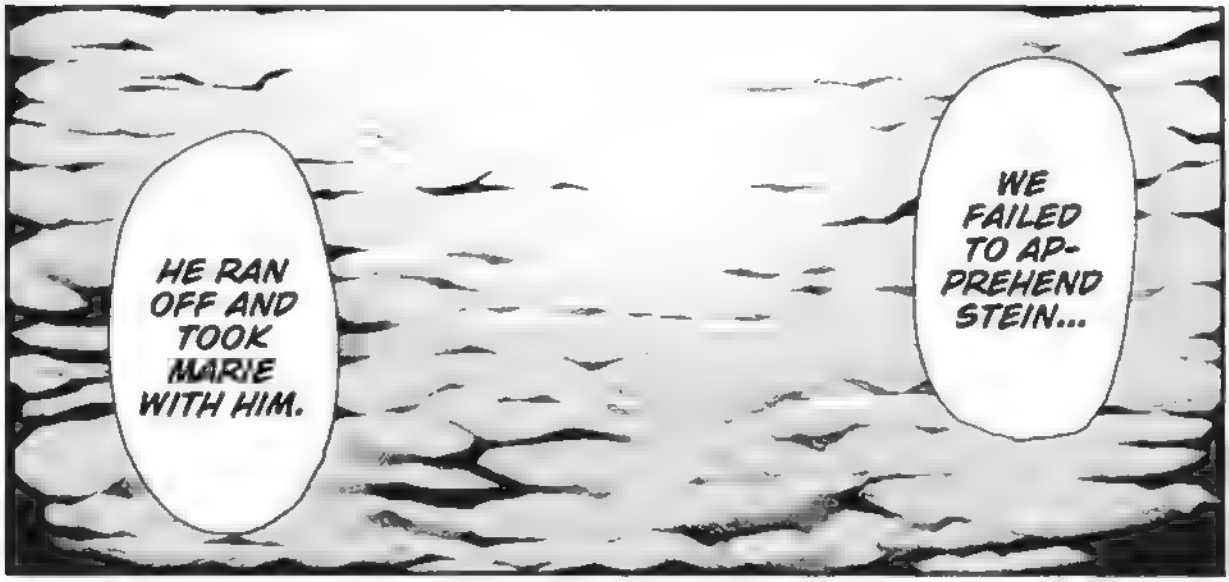
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D WANT TO GET REVENGE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO B.J., BUT...
MARIE ...
...ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE YOU WANT TO GO WITH STEIN?
STEIN HAS NO LOVE IN HIM.
...GOING WITH HIM ISN'T GOING TO BRING YOU HAPPINESS. HE CAN'T GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED...
HE'S ALONE... AND ALWAYS WILL BE.

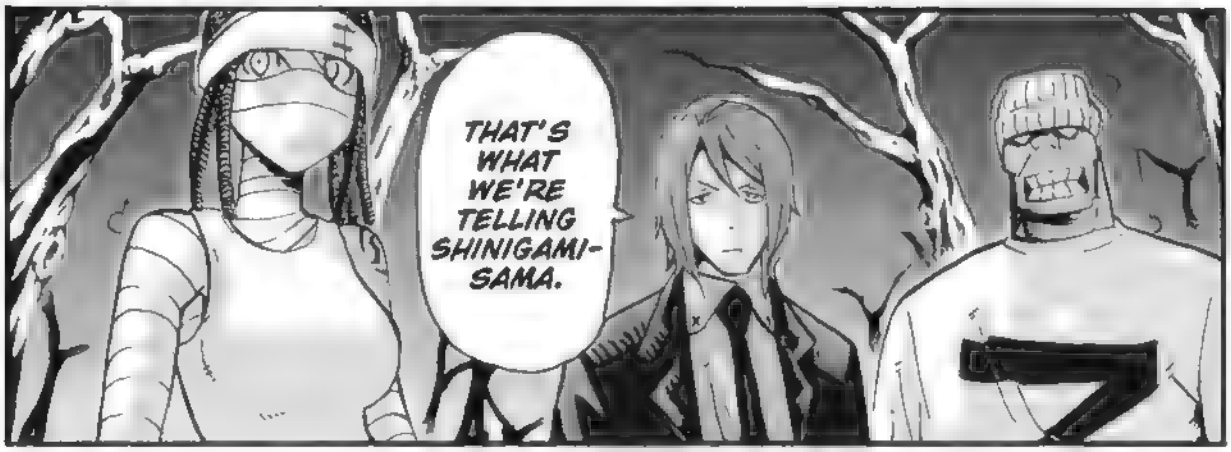
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO GO.

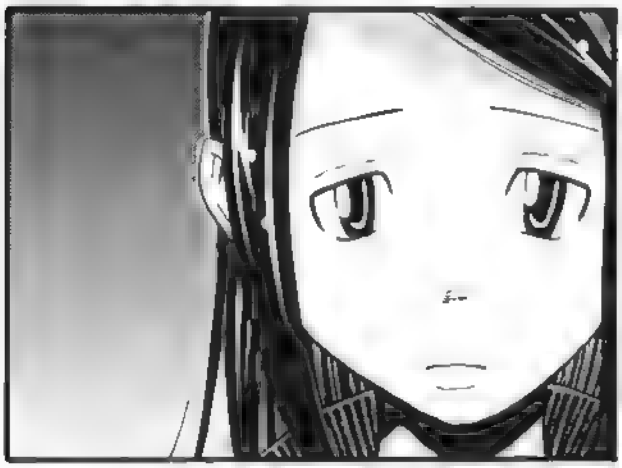
STEIN'S ALWAYS ON HIS OWN...
...BUT IF WE LEAVE HIM ALONE THIS TIME, HE'LL CRACK UP FOR GOOD. I KNOW HE WILL.
BESIDES, I MADE A PROMISE TO JOE.

I PROMISED I'D KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE ON THIS MAN...
C'MON, STEIN. LET'S GO.
!




WE FAILED TO AP-PREHEND STEIN...
HE RAN OFF AND TOOK MARIE WITH HIM.


THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TELLING SHINIGAMI-SAMA.



THAT'S IT, THEN.

NOW HAND ME THAT BAG.
SCHOOL WAS GETTING TO BE KIND OF A DRAG ANYWAY. I THINK NOW'S THE PERFECT TIME TO TAKE A BREAK.
I DIDN'T WANT TO GO BEHIND YOUR BACK LIKE THAT...
I'M REALLY SORRY.
IT'S FINE.
UM, BLACK ☆ STAR?
YEAH?
THIS MIGHT NOT BE QUITE WHAT YOU HAD IN MIND FOR THIS TRIP, BUT...
JUST STICK CLOSE AND FOLLOW ME.
WE'LL GO WHEREVER THE ROAD TAKES US!
A'IGHT!

YOUR PARENTS' PLACE?
YES...MY MOM AND DAD WOULD BE REALLY GLAD TO SEE US.
...WHAT DO YOU THINK OF GOING TO VISIT MY PARENTS? WOULD YOU BE UP FOR THAT?

ME AND MAKA DO BOTH COME FROM JAPANESE FAMILIES...
THAT ACTUALLY SOUNDS PRETTY FUN.
JAPAN, HUH?

NO...BUT I DON'T WANNA... I DON'T WANNA DO THAT...
PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME...
DWMA OVER-NIGHT ROOMS...
NO...BUT I DON'T WANT TO GET AWAY...
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A CLEAN GET-AWAY.
THEY ALREADY FOUND THE SNAKE YOU PLANTED, YOU KNOW.
...THAT MAKA GIRL KNOWS. SHE SAW YOU AND ME TALKING TOGETHER.
YOU MAY NOT HAVE REALIZED IT, BUT...
I'M STAYING NO MATTER WHAT...
THESE ARE THE FIRST FRIENDS I'VE EVER HAD...

NO!
NOW HURRY AND GET YOUR STUFF TOGETHER. WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE.
!!
...I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE DWMA!
I...
MAKA & SOUL'S APART-MENT.
GOOD NIGHT.

...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I CAN'T JUST LET IT GO. I HAVE TO TELL SOMEONE ABOUT CRONA.
...THEN THERE'S A PRETTY GOOD CHANCE THEY'RE UP TO NO GOOD...
IF MEDUSA IS ALIVE AND STILL CONTACTING CRONA...
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING, CRONA!? YOU IDIOT...!
BUT IF I TELL SHINIGAMI-SAMA AND THE TEACHERS ABOUT WHAT I SAW...THEN WHAT? HE'LL BE EXPELLED!? MAYBE EVEN SOMETHING MUCH WORSE THAN THAT.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
EVER SINCE YOU GOT HOME, YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD.
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?
...YES.
OH...
WELL... YEAH...

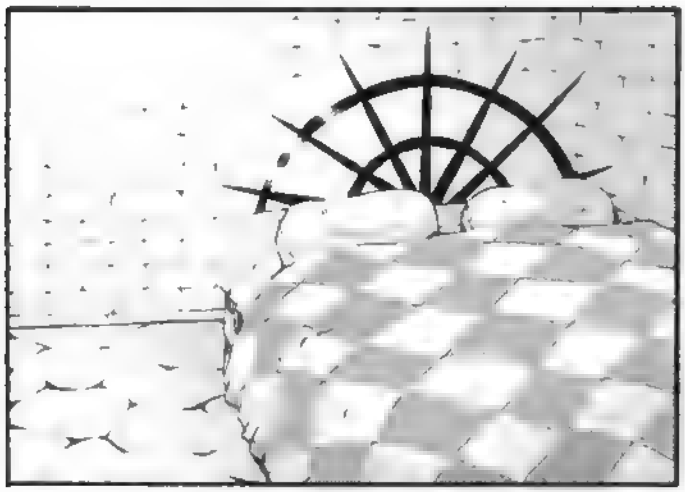
IS IT BETTER IF I DON'T KNOW?
YEAH ...
NOT RIGHT NOW, ANY-WAY...
TO-MOR-ROW.
I PROMISE I'LL TELL YOU TOMOR-ROW.
I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON SOUL TO HELP.

HEY, DON'T SWEAT IT.
TELL ME WHEN-EVER YOU'RE READY.
BUT EITHER WAY, YOU SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP.
OKAY.
GOOD NIGHT.

HE'S RIGHT. IT'S NO USE JUST SITTING HERE BROODING OVER IT LIKE THIS...
I'LL GO SEE CRONA AND ASK HIM ABOUT IT FIRST THING TOMORROW MORNING BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS.

MORNING!!

HI, CRONA!



...THAT QUITE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE LEFT THE NIGHT BEFORE...

AFTER-WARD I WOULD FIND OUT...

THIS WAS ALSO THE MOMENT WHEN I BEGAN TO REALIZE THAT THE WORLD WAS CHANGING LITTLE BY LITTLE...AND THE PEOPLE AROUND ME WERE CHANGING WITH IT.
AND THAT I WAS BEING ASKED TO CHANGE TOO...
CRONA ...

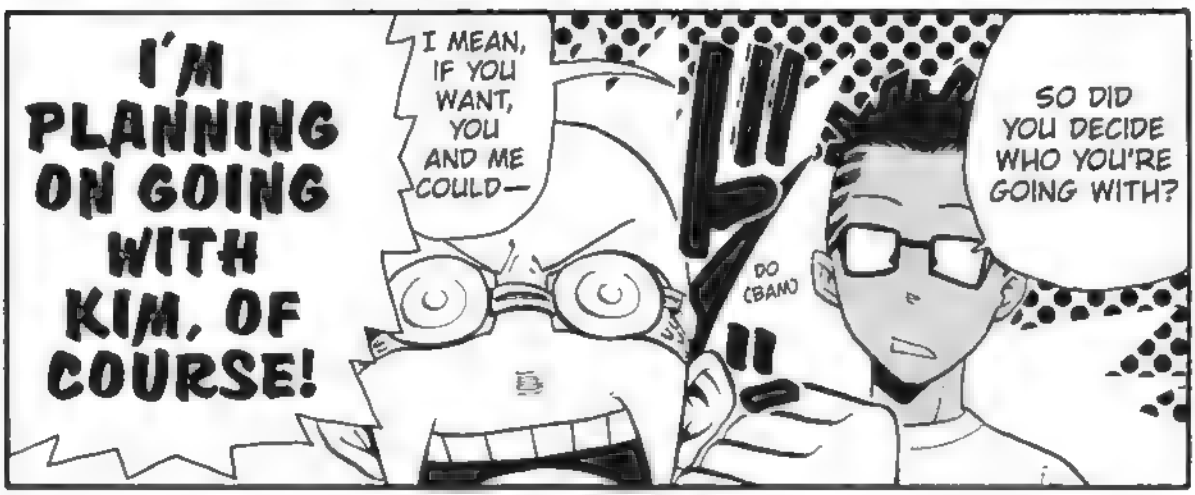
ME-
DUSA.

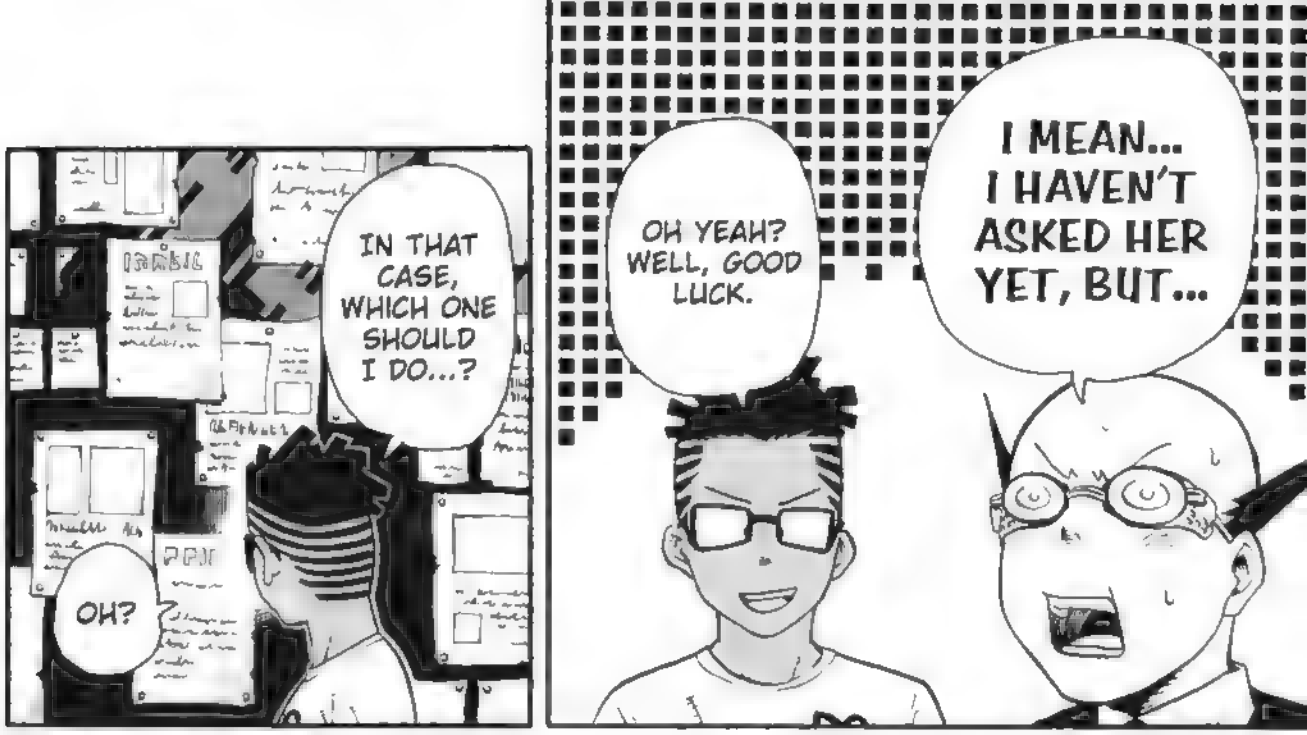
SOUL EATER

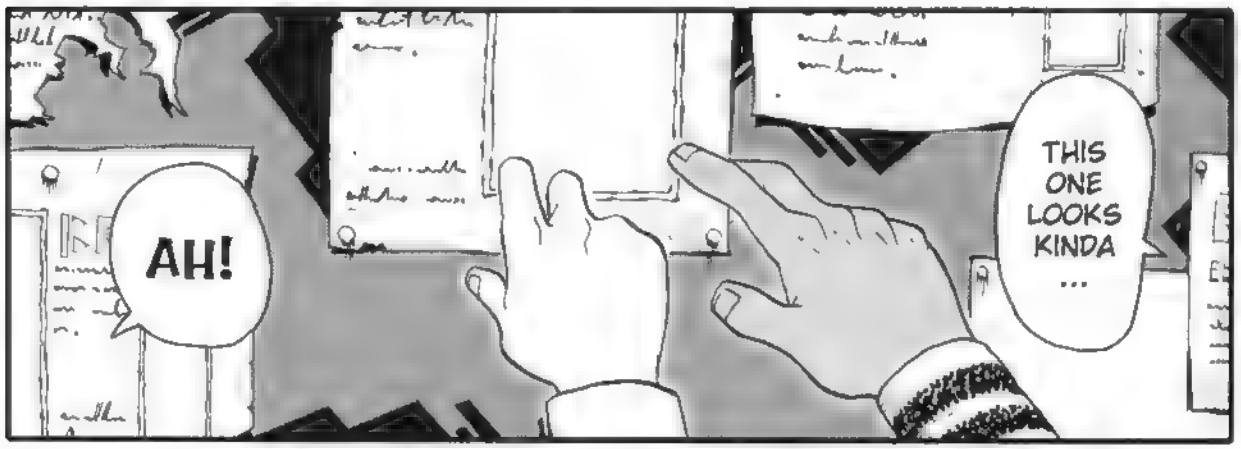
DWMA EXTRA-CURRICULAR ASSIGN-MENT BOARD

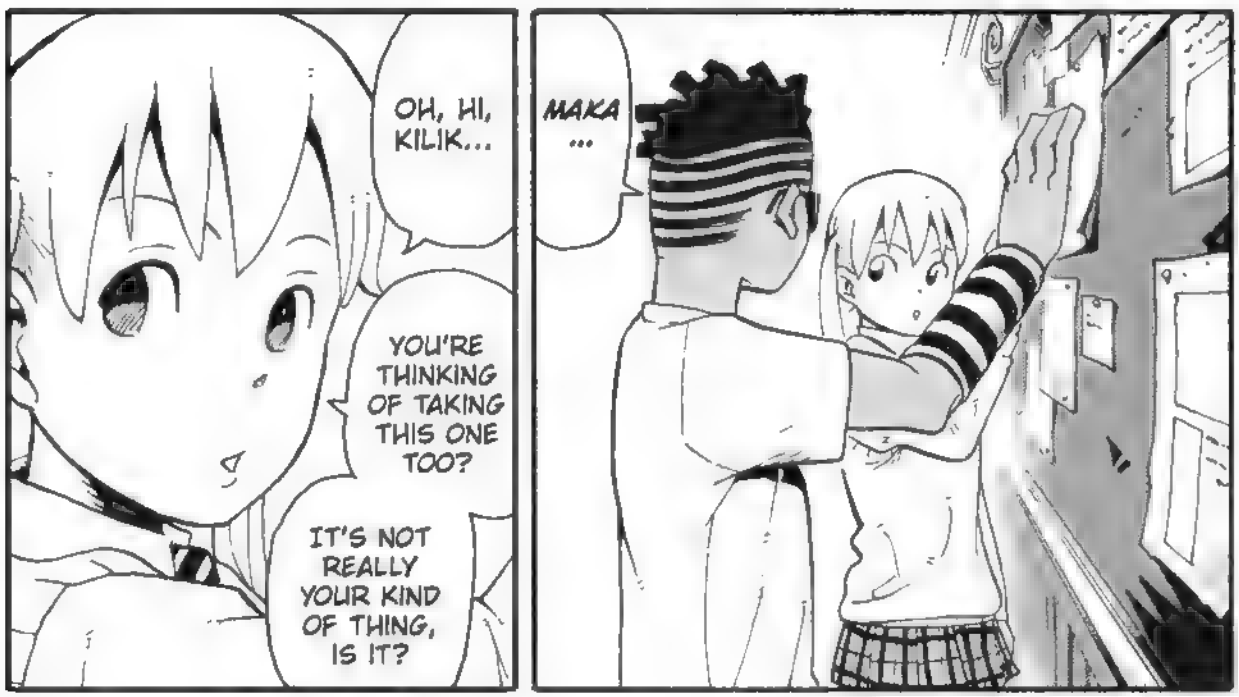
I'M DOING AN ARACHNO-PHOBIA-RELATED ONE.
YEP!
MAN, I'VE SEEN TONS OF THOSE ARACHNO-PHOBIA MISSIONS LATELY...

NAH, NOT YET...
... YOU?
HEY KILIK, WHERE ARE YOU GOING FOR YOUR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ASSIGN-MENT? HAVE YOU DECIDED YET?

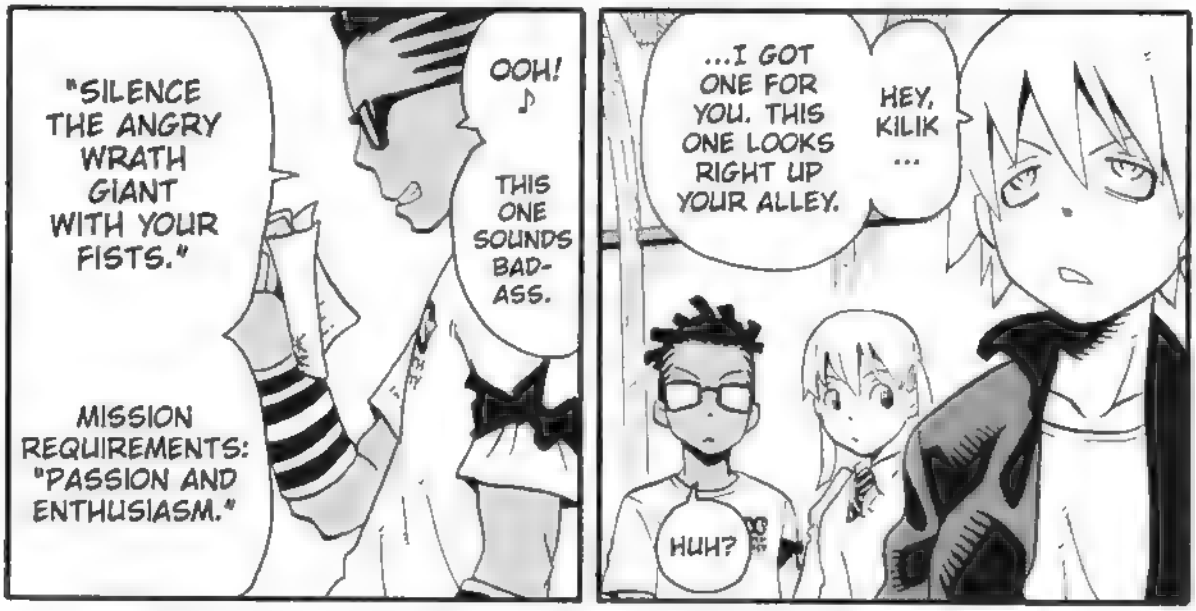

I'M PLANNING ON GOING WITH KIM, OF COURSE!
I MEAN, IF YOU WANT, YOU AND ME COULD—
DO (BAM)
SO DID YOU DECIDE WHO YOU'RE GOING WITH?

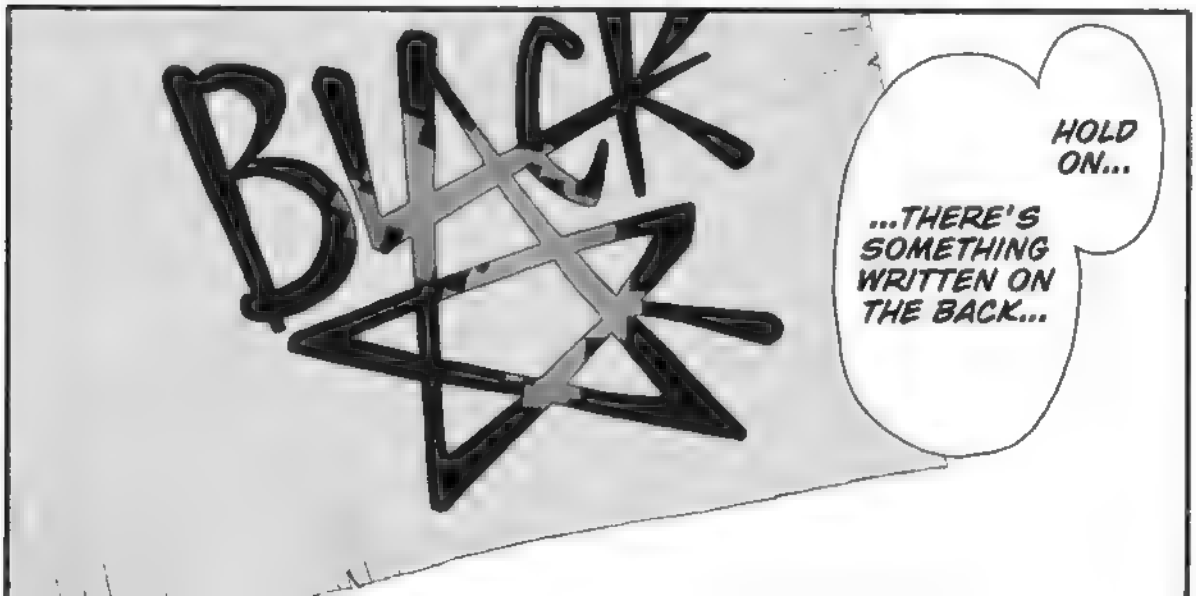

IN THAT CASE, WHICH ONE SHOULD I DO...?
OH?
OH YEAH? WELL, GOOD LUCK.
I MEAN... I HAVEN'T ASKED HER YET, BUT...


AH!
THIS ONE LOOKS KINDA ...


OH, HI, KILIK...
YOU'RE THINKING OF TAKING THIS ONE TOO?
IT'S NOT REALLY YOUR KIND OF THING, IS IT?
MAKA ...

MISSION REQUIRE-MENTS: "SOUL PERCEPTION ABILITY"...
SAYS, "SHED LIGHT ON MYSTERIOUS INCIDENT AT ABANDONED FACTORY"...
HUH? WHY NOT?
PASHI (SNATCH)
LOCA-TION... RUSSIA, RIGHT?
DEATH CITY
TCH.
A PER-CEPTION JOB, HUH...
PI (FWIP)
SEE?


"SILENCE THE ANGRY WRATH GIANT WITH YOUR FISTS."
MISSION REQUIREMENTS: "PASSION AND ENTHUSIASM."
OOH! ♪
THIS ONE SOUNDS BAD-ASS.
HEY, KILIK ...
...I GOT ONE FOR YOU. THIS ONE LOOKS RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY.
HUH?


BLACK ★ STAR
HOLD ON...
...THERE'S SOMETHING WRITTEN ON THE BACK...

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE BLACK☆STAR AND TSUBAKI ARE TAKING A LEAVE OF ABSENCE...
I'M REALLY GOING TO MISS THEM.

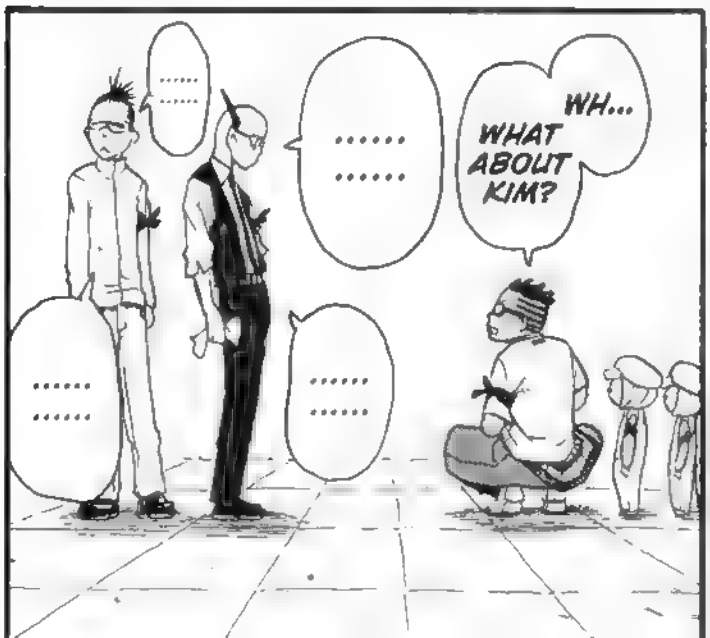
BLACK ☆ STAR...
YEAH, IT LOOKS LIKE THE KIND OF ASSIGNMENT HE'D WANNA TAKE ON, ALL RIGHT.
GUESS HE WAS TRYING TO RESERVE THIS ONE...
IT'S BLACK☆ STAR'S SIGNATURE ...

HUH? THERE'S SOMETHING WRITTEN ON THE BACK OF THIS FACTORY ONE TOO...
THE HAND-WRITING IS TERRIBLE ...

SHEESH... SHE'S SO COMPETI-TIVE.
SURE THING!
HELLO...MA'AM? I'D LIKE TO SIGN UP FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT, PLEASE.

"SIGNED, THE INCREDIBLE BLACK ☆ STAR."
"THIS IS A STUPID, BORING-ASS ASSIGNMENT. LET MAKA OR SOMEONE LIKE THAT HANDLE IT.

LET'S GO, SOUL.
YOU AND I ARE GONNA TURN THIS INTO A REWARDING ASSIGNMENT OR ELSE!
ALL RIGHT, WHATEVER. THEN LET'S PARTNER UP WITH KID'S TEAM OR SOMETHING.
ZA (STEP)
GUESS WE'D BETTER GO FIND OURSELVES SOME PARTNERS TOO, HUH?
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO (RUMBLE)
!!


.....
.....
.....
.....
WH...
WHAT ABOUT KIM?
.....
.....
.....
.....

O...
OX ...?

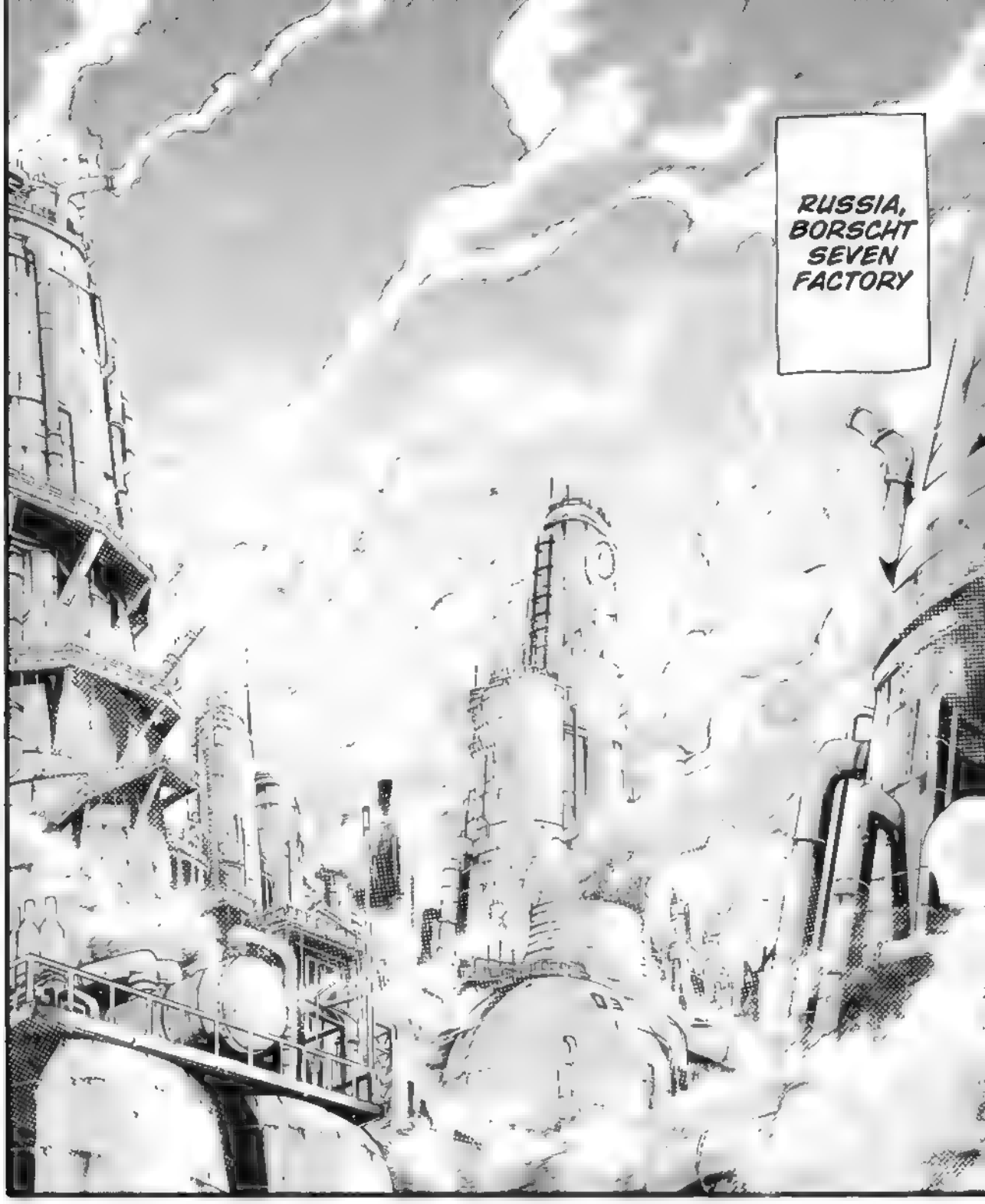
WHAT!?
I'M SAYIN' CUT 'EM OFF. THEY'RE STUPID AND WEIRD, MAN... EVERYONE WHO SEES 'EM THINKS SO.
SHE SAID SHE COULD NEVER BE SEEN IN PUBLIC WITH A GUY WHO HAS A CREEPY HAIRSTYLE LIKE MINE...
THEN SHAVE THOSE STUPID THINGS OFF, ALREADY.
AND, LIKE YOU SAY, KILIK, IT'D PROBABLY BE VERY EASY TO SHAVE THEM OFF AND BE DONE WITH IT.
...JUST SO I CAN MAINTAIN THESE HAIR SPIKES OF MINE...
...WHETHER A HAIRSTYLE LIKE THIS IS REALLY WORTH THE EFFORT OF GETTING UP EARLY EVERY MORNING TO KEEP MY HEAD SHAVED...
...AND NO DOUBT THEY'D PROBABLY WONDER ...
...AND I'M SURE MOST PEOPLE WOULD EVEN SAY IT'S "WEIRD"...
YOU'RE RIGHT THAT THIS MIGHT BE A SOMETHING OF AN UNORTHODOX HAIRSTYLE...
BUT EVEN IF THE WOMAN I LOVE CALLS ME "CREEPY" BECAUSE OF THEM ...
...I SIMPLY CANNOT BREAK THESE TWO PILLARS OF MY EXISTENCE!!

...AND THE STRENGTH TO KEEP THEM SAFE FROM HARM!
THE INTELLI-GENCE TO HELP THE ONES I LOVE...

THEY ARE THE THUNDER WHICH STIRS MY SOUL!!
THOSE ARE THE TWO PILLARS OF WHICH I SPEAK!!

...YOU'RE A PRETTY PASSIONATE GUY.
DAMN, OX...
THE REASON KIM WON'T GIVE ME A SECOND GLANCE IS NOT BECAUSE THEY'RE CREEPY!!
IT'S BECAUSE MY PILLARS AREN'T POLISHED ENOUGH!!
AND YOU SUGGEST I SHAVE THEM!!? OUT OF THE QUES-TION!!
YEAH! YEAH!

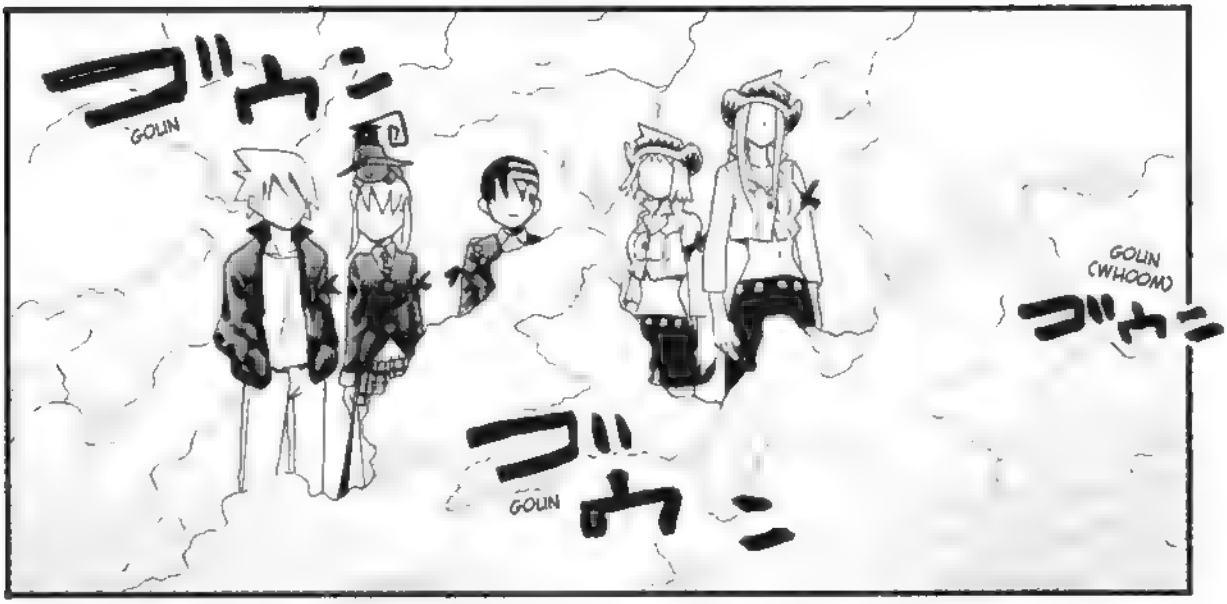
LET'S GO KICK THE CRAP OUTTA THIS WRATH GIANT DUDE!
YOU AND ME!!
THEN COME ON, BRO!
MISSION REQUIREMENTS: "PASSION AND ENTHUSIASM."
...FROM BEHIND, OF COURSE...
I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU TWO THIS WHOLE TIME...
"MA'AM" INDEED.
PAN (SLAP)
MA'AM!!
WE WANT THIS ONE!!
TON (BUMP)
...YOU'RE PER-FECT FOR THE JOB!
...AND FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN...


RUSSIA, BORSCHT SEVEN FACTORY

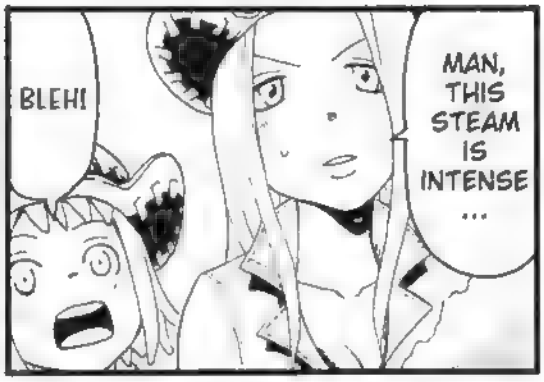
SO JUST KEEP HOLDING ON, CRONA...
THE ONLY THING I CAN DO RIGHT NOW IS TAKE THINGS AS THEY COME, ONE AT A TIME...

SOUL EATER

CHAPTER 41: THE CLOWN (PART 1)


GOUN
GOUN
GOUN
GOUN (WHOOM)

SUPPOSEDLY NO ONE'S COME IN OR OUT FOR SIX YEARS.
RIGHT.
BUT THIS FACTORY'S NOT EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE OPERATIONAL ANYMORE, RIGHT?

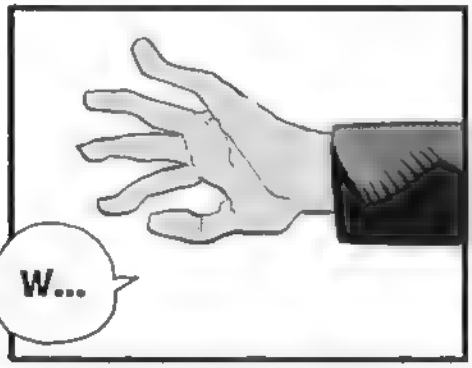

BLEH!
MAN, THIS STEAM IS INTENSE ...

GOUN
GOUN
GOUN
AND YET THERE'S ALL THIS STEAM AND FACTORY NOISE...

MAKA, YOU SENSE SOME-THING?
NO... STILL NOTH-ING...

ZARA
ZARA (SHUFFLE)

I GUESS WE SHOULD JUST GO IN.


W...

WAIT!

I'M SAYING WAIT!!

WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?

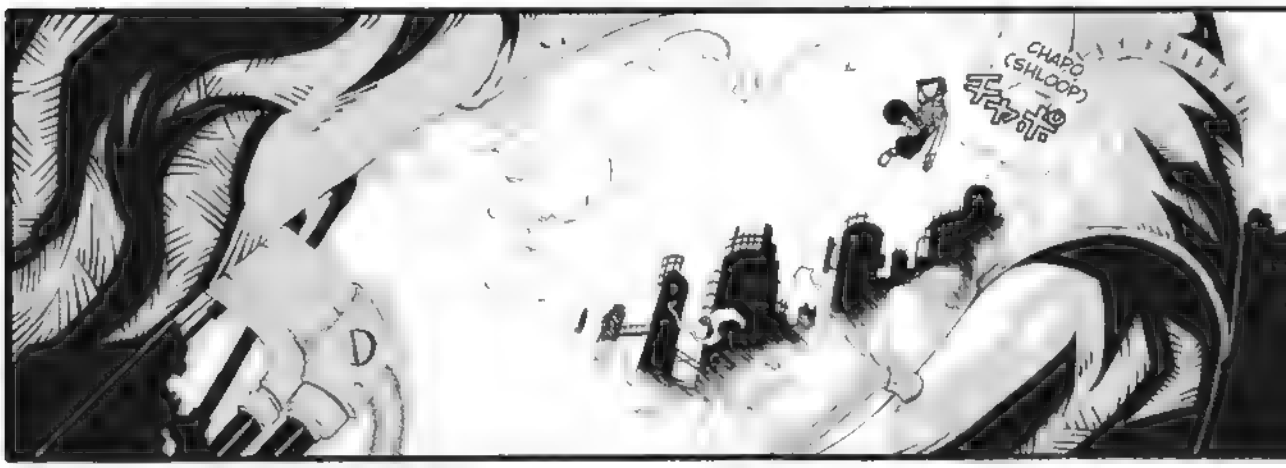
DON'T BE ABSURD!
RIGHT HERE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHERE?

AND I'M ASKING WHY.

JUST WHERE ARE YOU PLANNING TO ENTER THE FACTORY FROM?

THERE ARE TONS OF PLACES WE COULD ENTER FROM...WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? LET'S JUST GO IN.
SO?
IT'S OBVIOUSLY JUST AN AIR VENT.
DOES THAT LOOK LIKE AN ENTRANCE TO YOU?
ISN'T IT DANGEROUS TO SEND THEM AHEAD ALONE?
LIZ. PATTY.
LET'S GO.
SFX: BI (FLICK)
ALL RIGHT. C'MON, SOUL ...
ARGH ...
IN THAT CASE, YOU ALL GO ON AHEAD.
MY TEAM AND I WILL FIND THE OFFICIAL ENTRANCE AND GO IN FROM THERE.
RIN
RIN
RIN
.....
.....
THEY'LL BE FINE! ♪
DON'T WORRY— BU-TAN WILL BE WITH THEM THIS TIME.
RIN
RIN (DING)

NUUUU (SHHHK)


CHAPO (SHLOOP)

SO WHAT DO YOU WISH FOR?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOU'VE COME TO A TRULY MARVELOUS PLACE.
SO MAR-VELOUS IT'S TERRIFY-ING.

YOU'VE JUST THROWN YOUR COINS INTO THE FOUNTAIN, KIDS.

.....
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, KID...
GIVE IT UP. WE NEED TO HURRY AND CATCH UP TO MAKA AND SOUL.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES WE CIRCLE AROUND THE FACTORY, WE'RE NOT GONNA FIND THIS SO-CALLED "ENTRANCE" OF YOURS. THERE JUST ISN'T ONE...
EXIT? WE HAVEN'T EVEN GONE THROUGH AN ENTRANCE YET.
...IT MAKES ME REALLY UNEASY.
BUT WALKING ON A ROAD LIKE THIS WITH NO EXIT IN SIGHT...
SHUT UP, LITTLE MISS PARTICULAR.
HUFF.
HUFF.

WHEN A MAN BUMPS UP AGAINST THE WALL OF ADVERSITY...
...HE REFLECTS BACK ON HIS PAST TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANYTHING HE MIGHT'VE MISSED OR DONE WRONG.
WERE THE EDGES OF THE TOILET PAPER FOLDED INTO A PROPER TRIANGLE ...?
WERE ALL THE PICTURE FRAMES STRAIGHT ...?
WERE ALL THE CANDLES THE SAME HEIGHT...? DID I MAKE SURE THEY WERE THE SAME HEIGHT...? WERE THEY...?

OH NO... THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN...
MAYBE THE FRAMES WERE CROOKED...
MAYBE I FORGOT TO FOLD THE TOILET PAPER...
GIVE US A BREAK, KID.
SHOOP!

FAILING TO ASK "WHAT IF" IS A LEADING CAUSE OF ERRORS AND MISHAPS.
I'M GOING HOME RIGHT NOW TO MAKE SURE.
WAIT, DAM-MIT ...!!
DO NOT GO HOME!!

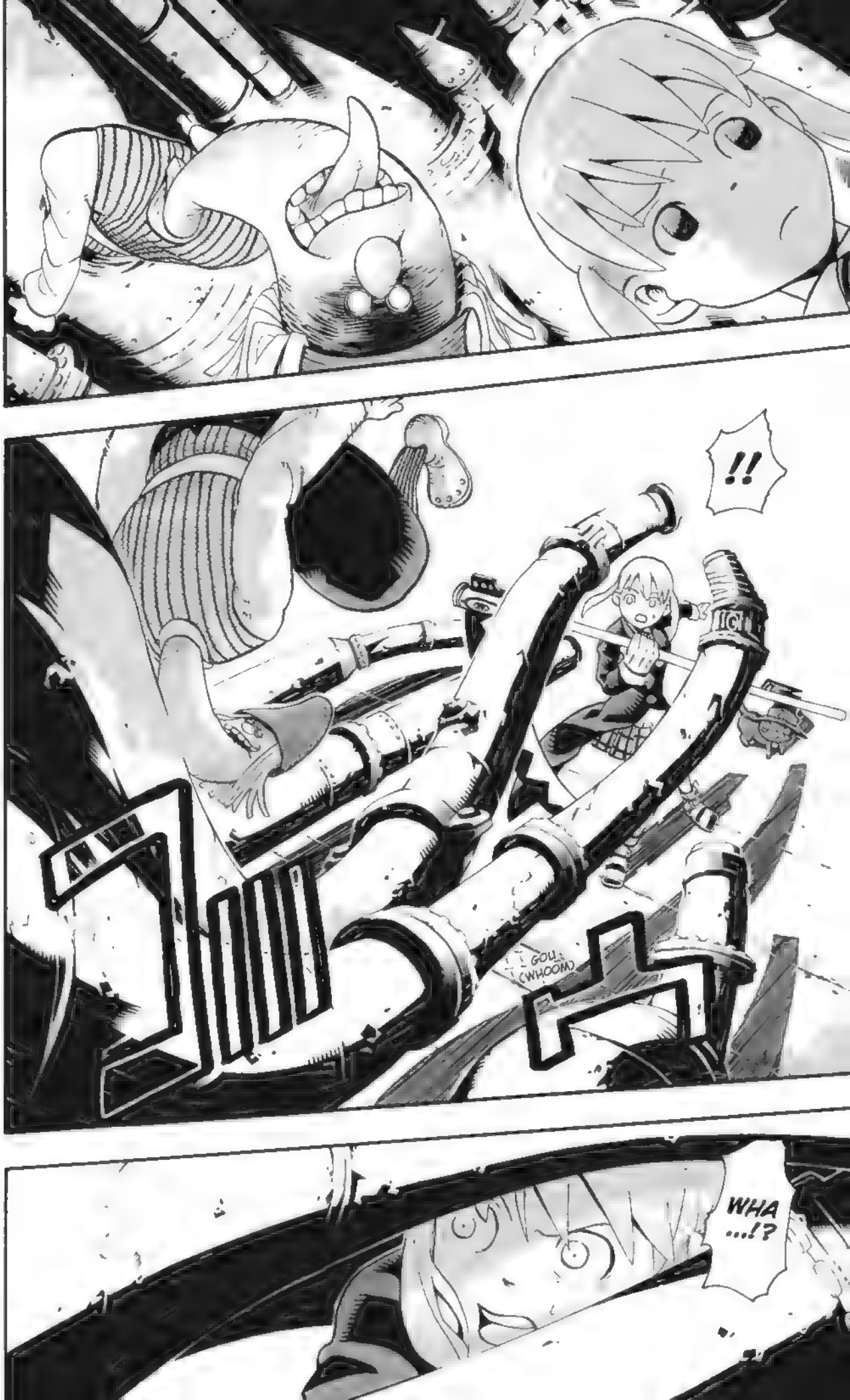
AHHHH! I JUST CAN'T REMEMBER ANYMORE ...!
WHAT DO I DO!? WHAT DO I DO!?

IT'S FINE.
YOU ALWAYS KEEP EVERYTHING EXACTLY THE WAY YOU LIKE IT.
BUT HERE YOU GO WITH THESE "WHAT IF"S AGAIN...

!!
I CAN'T HAVE IT PREYING ON ME...
BUT I HAVE TO CLEAR THIS DOUBT FROM MY MIND...
WHAT ABOUT MAKA AND SOUL, HUH!?
AND BLAIR TOO, OF COURSE.
BUT WHAT IF THE TWO OF THEM ARE BATTLING SOMEONE INSIDE THE FACTORY RIGHT THIS MINUTE? WHAT THEN?

SFX: BIKU (JUMP)
IT'S A FACTORY MONS—
AWE-SOME!
AH ...
AHH ...
WHA ...!?
NOTH-ING!
NOTH-ING!
NOTH-ING!
BATA (FLAIL)
BATA
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU TWO?
?
I KNOW, I KNOW... JUST KEEP QUIET!
SHH! SHHH!
—FWER!
GYU (GRAB)
C'MON, C'MON... LET'S GO HOME, SHALL WE!
MMPH! MMPH!
KUI
KUI (SHOVE)
WHA... WHAT'S GOING ON...?

THAT'S WEIRD... ALL THE METERS ARE DEAD.
BUT THEN WHERE'D ALL THAT STEAM COME FROM...?
MEOW-MEOW-MEOW-MEOW-MEOOOW MEOW-MEOW-MEOOOW!
NUUUU (SHHHP)
HRRM ...
YOU STILL DON'T SENSE ANYTHING, MAKA?
NO... NOTHING IN PARTICULAR ...


!!
GOU (WHOOM)
WHA ...!?

DA CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE!
FIRST WE GET THE KITTY-CAT...
EASY PEASY ...!
DO (WHAM)
PUM-PUMPKIN PUMPKIN !!
OOOO (WHOOOSH)
KA (FLASH)
OHH OHH AHH!

DON'T MEOWSS WITH BLAIR, BUB! ♡

DA CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT THIS FACTORY?
SO YOU FINALLY SHOWED YOUR FACE. YOU KNOW THIS AREA'S OFF LIMITS.

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT.
KISHIN-SAMA HAS BEEN RESUR-RECTED.

WE ARE ALL LOST AND WANDERING THROUGH THE DARKNESS ...
...BUT KISHIN-SAMA IS A SHINING RAY OF LIGHT THAT CASTS AWAY THE DARKNESS OF CONFUSION.
I AM THE FLYING DUTCHMAN— A PRISONER OF MADNESS.

THIS FACTORY IS A CRIB OF MAD-NESS.

YOU'RE AN AGENT OF THE KISHIN!?
BOY, DID I PICK THE RIGHT ASSIGN-MENT!
THIS GUY MIGHT EVEN KNOW THE KISHIN'S WHERE-ABOUTS...!

AND THE CLOWN HAS ISSUED FORTH HIS BIRTHING CRY.
HE IS THE ONE WHO OFFERS FREEDOM TO THE PEOPLE...

DA (DASH)
WAIT!!
YOU KNOW WHERE THE KISHIN IS, DON'T YOU!!?
WELL THEN, I'D BEST BE ON MY WAY, MY TWO FRIENDS FROM DWMA...

BACHIN (SNAP)
POCHA (SPLOOSH)
MAY YOU ENJOY THE MANY WONDERFUL HORRORS THIS FACTORY HAS TO OFFER.

MAKA!
ON IT!

WITCH-HUNT SLASH !!
THAT GIRL... SHE'S USING AN ANTI-DEMON WAVELENGTH ...
STILL HERE! STILL HERE! STILL HERE! STILL HERE!
NOW CHEW AND CHEW AND MUNCH HER UP ...!!
YODELAY-HEE-HOO!
DO (SLAM)
DO
DO
HYAA AAH!

KAMAI-
TACHI
!!!!

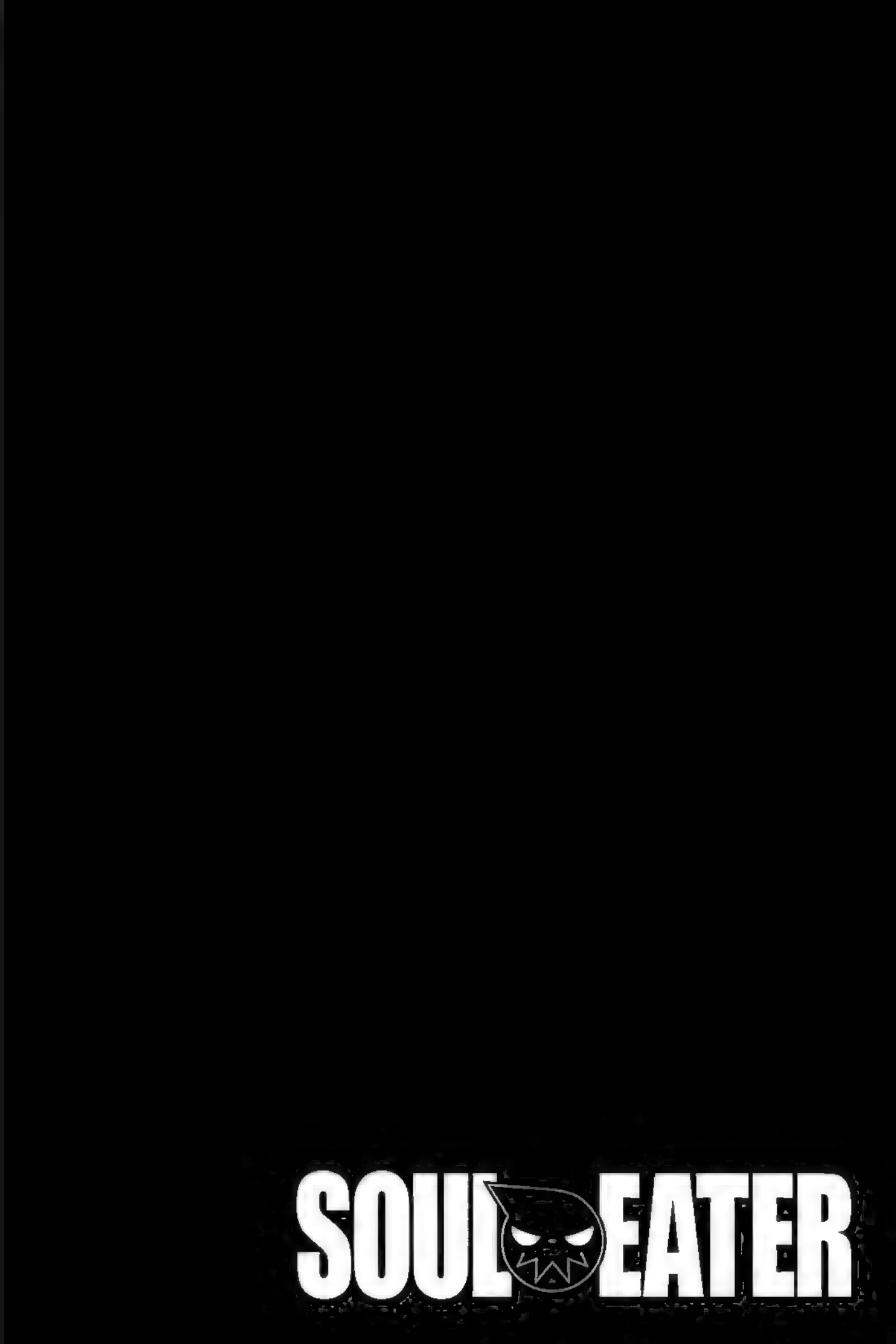
WE WHIP AROUND THE SOUL WAVELENGTHS WE DRAW ONTO THE SCYTHE BLADE WITH WITCH-HUNT SLASH...AND THEN FLING 'EM BACK WHERE THEY CAME FROM!
HOW'S THIS!?
NOT REALLY SUITED TO TEAM USE 'COS THE ATTACK IS SO INDISCRIMINATE, BUT...
KYUN
MEEOW!?
THIS IS GYETTING A LITTLE DANGEROUS ...
KYUN
KYUN (FWOOP)
NGHRAUGH!
KYUN

KORU
KORU (WHIRL)
KORU
KORU
KYUN
KYUN
KYUN
...
ANTI-DEMON WAVE-LENGTHS... THAT MAKES THINGS TOUGH...
OOO (WHOOSH)
JUST TAKING A LITTLE BREAK...

IT SEEMS A RATHER INTER-ESTING-LOOKING ONE HAS ARRIVED, EH?
WE CAN'T TURN HER LIKE WE DID THE OTHER ONE.
THIS ONE IS NO USE.
OH?
THERE'S NOT A SINGLE PERSON ALIVE WHO NEVER LOSES HER WAY.
HEY! HEY!
WH ...?
YOU JUST KEEP MOVING THIS FACTORY AROUND HOWEVER IT AMUSES YOU.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL GO.

I CAN DEFINITELY SEE SOMETHING, BUT IT'S ALL FOGGY SOMEHOW...
...LIKE HE'S HIDING SOMEWHERE IN THE STEAM...
WHERE'D THAT BASTARD GO? DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE'S COMING OUT.
MAKA, YOU STILL DON'T SENSE HIS SOUL WAVELENGTH ...?
YOU ALL RIGHT, MAKA...?
UGH ...
ピリッ
PIKU (JOLT)
WHAT THE...? SOMEONE ELSE IS COMING OUT...!

WHAT IS THAT THING!? WHAT'S GOING ON...!?
I AM THE CLOWN ...
I AM THE ONE WHO LURES PEOPLE INTO MADNESS.
THE SAME WAVELENGTH AS THE KISHIN ASURA'S ...!!?
THE CLOWN


SOUL EATER

CHAPTER 41: THE CLOWN (PART 2)

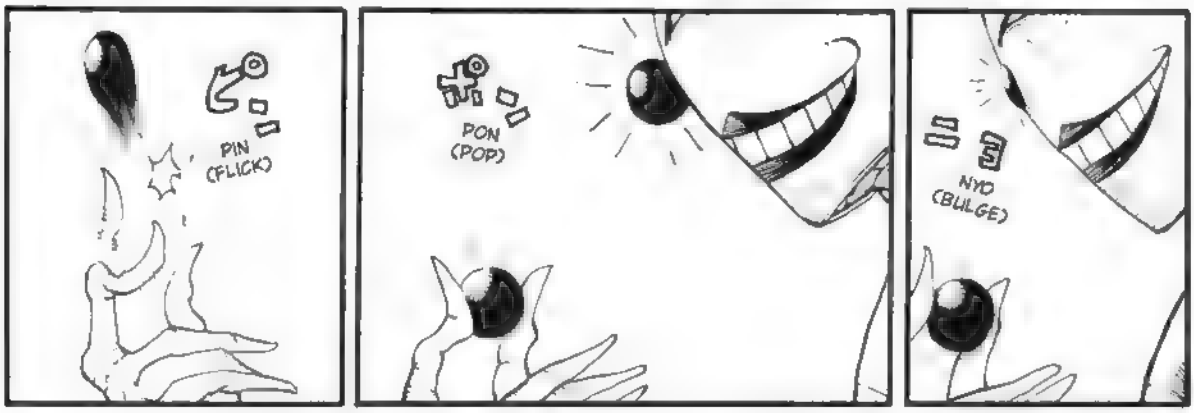
SOUL EATER

I'VE FELT THIS BEFORE...
I KNOW THIS SOUL WAVELENGTH...
...THE VERY EMBODI-MENT OF THE CONTAGION OF MADNESS.
I WAS BORN IN THIS FACTORY ...
I AM THE ONE WHO LURES PEOPLE INTO MAD-NESS.
...IT CAN'T BE...
THIS SOUL WAVELENGTH ...

ASURA!
THAT ONE TINY SOUL IS TRYING TO SUCK IN EVERYTHING AND ABSORB ALL OF IT...

THE HORROR...

KORO KORO (ROLL)


PIN (FLICK)
PON (POP)
NYO (BULGE)

THERE'S MORE...!
!!
... PLAY WITH ME.
COME ...
PON
PON
PON
PON

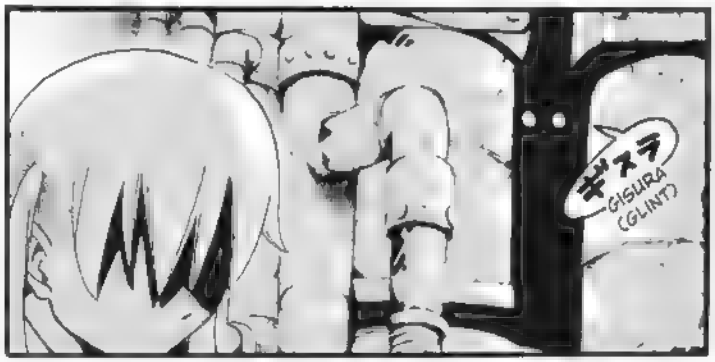
ZWAH!!
VU (FWOOSH)
GAN
GAN
GAN (CLANG)
GAN
GAGAN

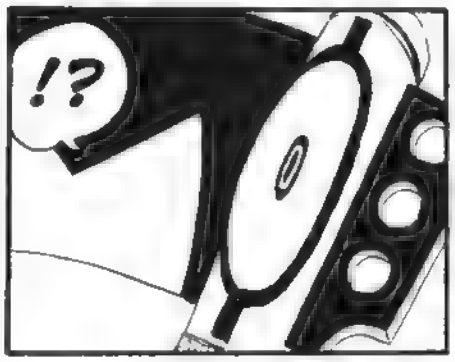
THEY'RE RICO-CHETING ALL OVER THE PLACE!
KAN (CLANG)
KIN (CLINK)
KON (CLONG)
KIN

CAN'T LET MYSELF BE OVER-WHELMED BY THIS HORROR...
CAN'T... GIVE... IN...
GO (WHAM)
GAKIN (CLANG)
ZA
ZA
ZA (SKID)
LUCKY SHOT.
OH!
NGH!!
GAKON (CLONK)

WH-WHAT THE HELL...? IT'S A PERSON ...!?
IT'S ...!
PORO (CRUMBLE)
PORO
PORO
...ME ...!?

DOSU (THNK)


ギスラ
GISURA (GLINT)

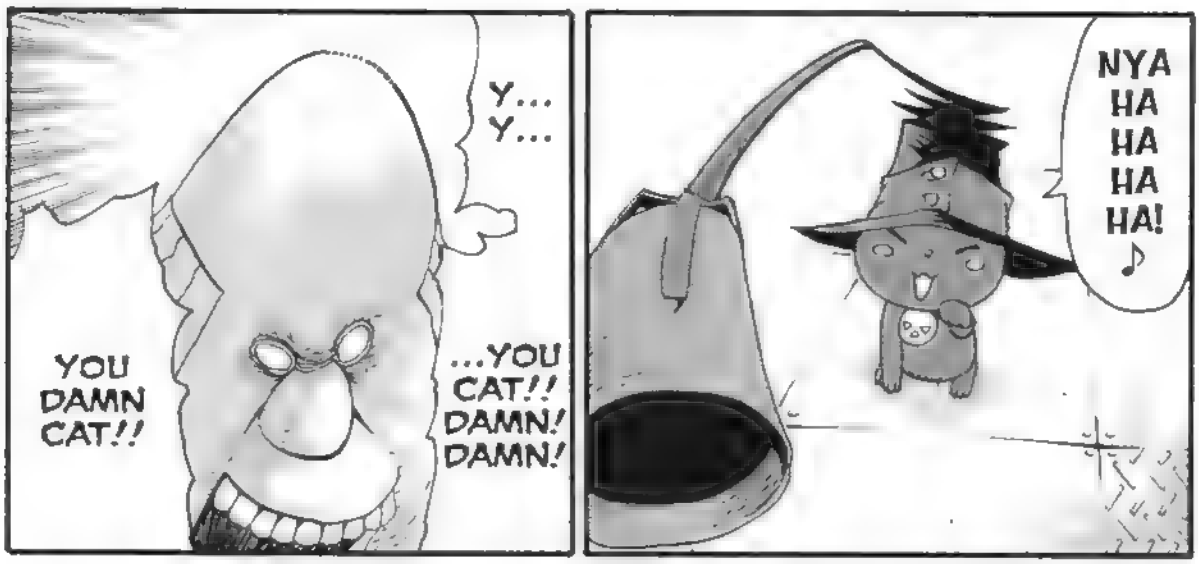

!?

HM?
GISURA
ギスラ

MAKA? WHAT'S WRONG?
?

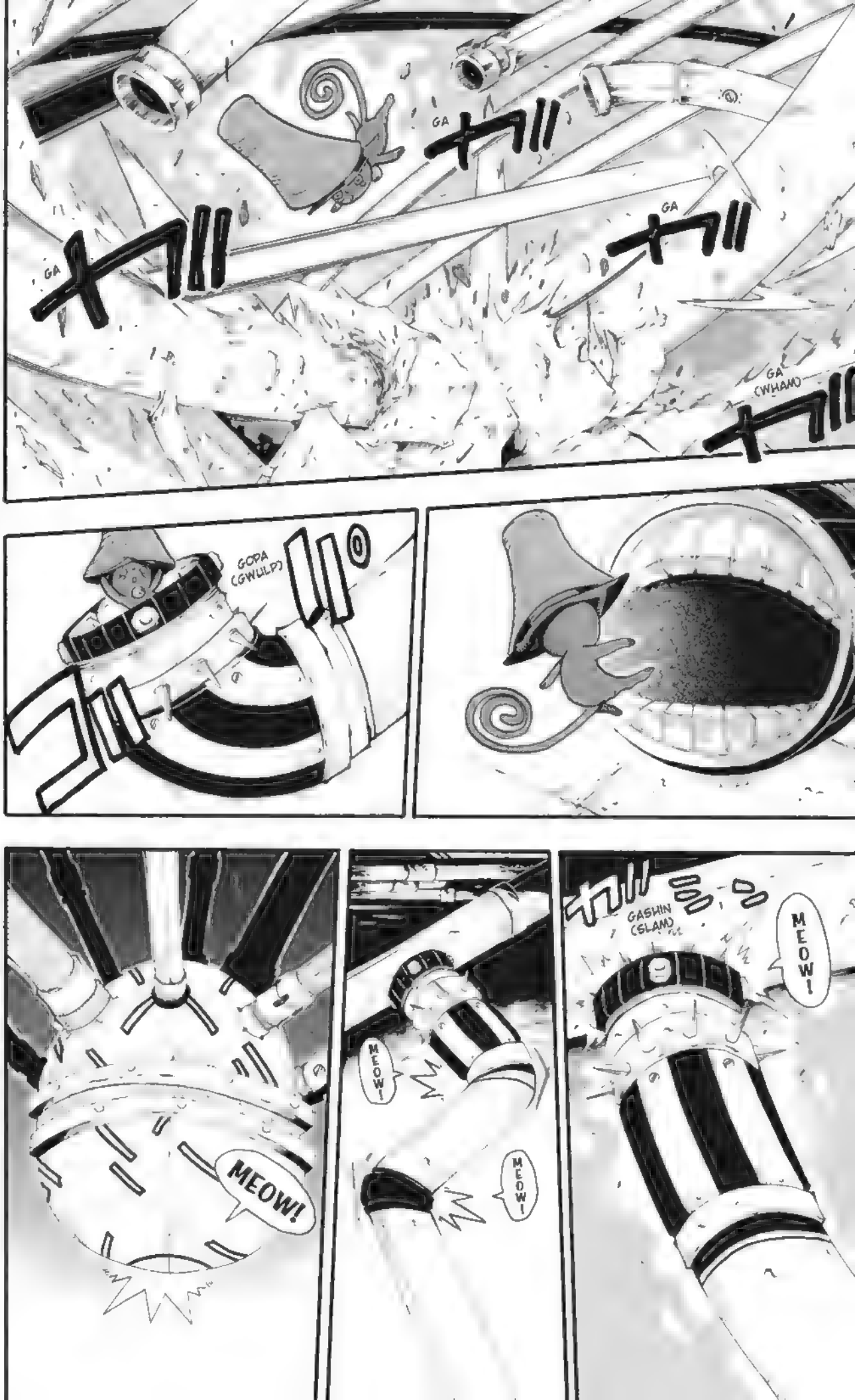
THAT STUPID CLOWN!
HE'S TRYING TO INFECT HER...
I ALREADY TOLD HIM IT WOULDN'T WORK.

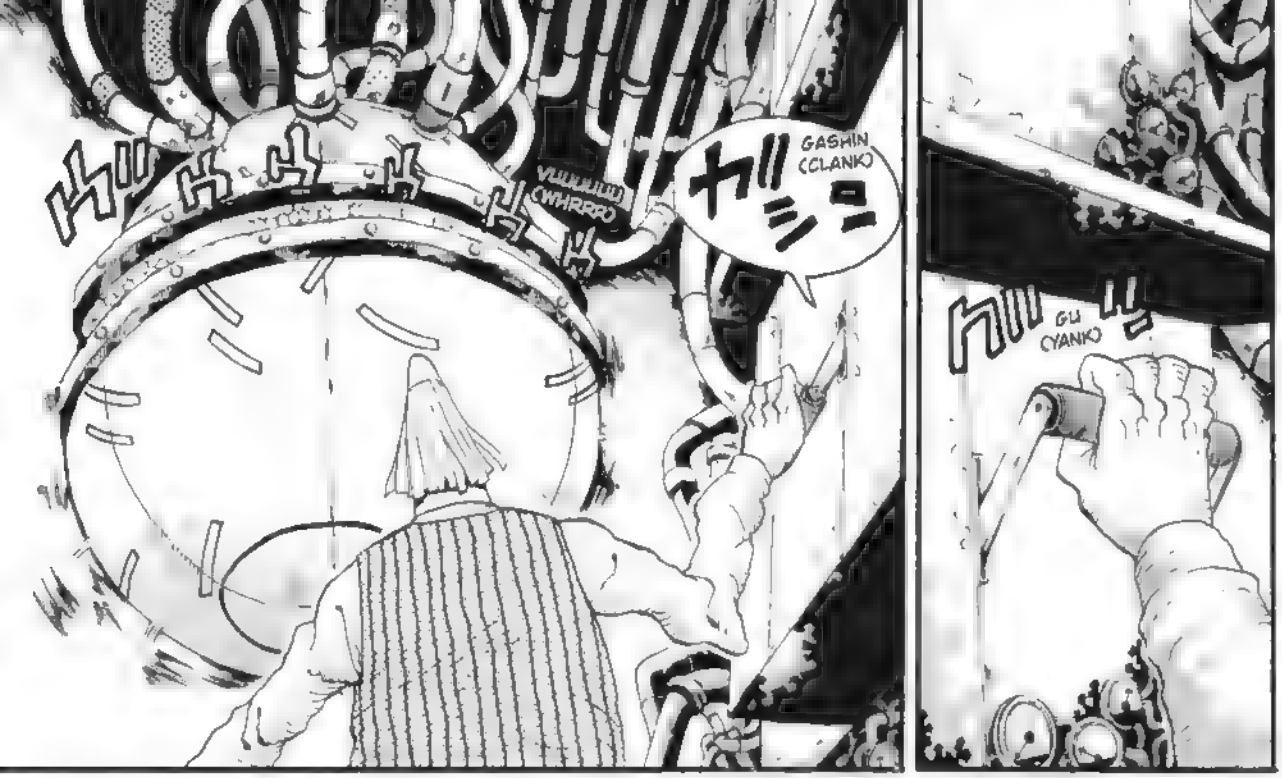
MONYOOOOO-!
NYUU (STRETCH)
GA (GRAB)


Y... Y...
YOU DAMN CAT!!
...YOU CAT!! DAMN! DAMN!
NYA HA HA HA HA! ♪

THIS HAT IS BU-TAN'S NOW.
PYON (BOUNCE)
YON (HOP)
W... WAIIIT !!
GIVE ME BACK MY HAT!!
I'LL SHOW YOU!!
SUPO (PLOP)

NIDHOGG!!
DA CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE!
HOW COULD I BE OUTRUN IN MY OWN NIDHOGG FACTORY !?
DO (TMP)
DO
DO
DO
WAIT! WAIT! THAT'S NOT FAIR!!
YOU WERE ALREADY WEARING A HAT!!
BWOOO O OOOO!
GIVE ME BACK MY DAMN HAAAT!
MEOWW!
COUGH! COUGH!
BUO (BLAST)

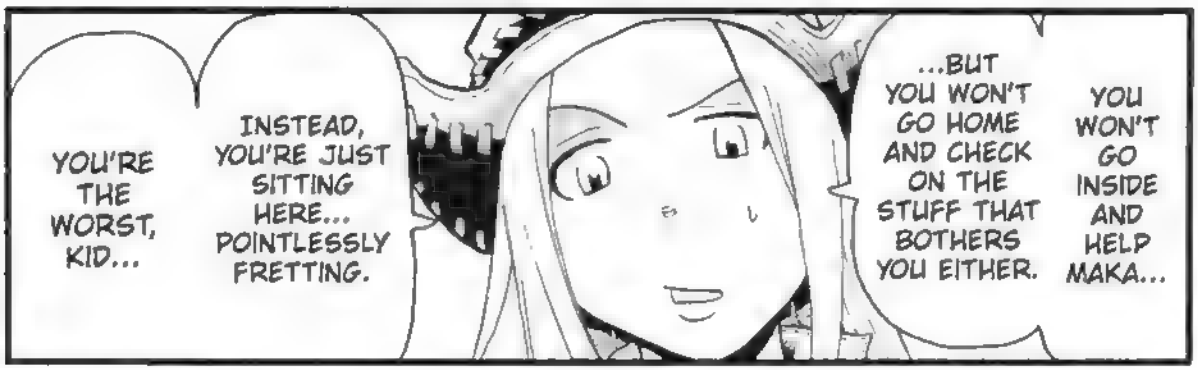

GA
GA
GA
GA
(WHAM)
GOPA
(GWLILP)
MEOW!
MEOW!
MEOW!
GASHIN
(SLAM)
MEOW!


GASHIN (CLANK)
VUUUUUUU (WHIRRR)
GU (YANK)

...AND BAKE BAKE BAKE TILL YOUR SOUL MELTY MELT MELTS!
GURI
CHUPPA CHUPPA
CHUPA
CRYSTAL
GURI (RUB)
CHUPPA (SLURP)
GRIPPER
HAVE A SEAT IN MY HIGH-HEAT COOKER...

ABA ABA ABA!!
BWAAH OWAAA AWAAA!
OW BOW BOW OWW!! GEH!!
MEBLAMAY MELLEE GOREEN TAAAAHH!!
GIVE ME BACK MY HATTY-HAAAT!
MY HAT! MY HAT!
AAH BWAAH AAAAAAH BWAAAAAH!
MY HAT! I FORGOT TO GET MY HAAAT!!
OH NO!!
MEBLAMAY MELLEE GOREEN TAAAHHH!!
HATTO (GASP)

I WANNA GO HOME AND CHECK ON EVERYTHING... BUT THEN WHAT ABOUT MAKA AND SOUL...?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO!!?
.....
MWAHHHHHH...

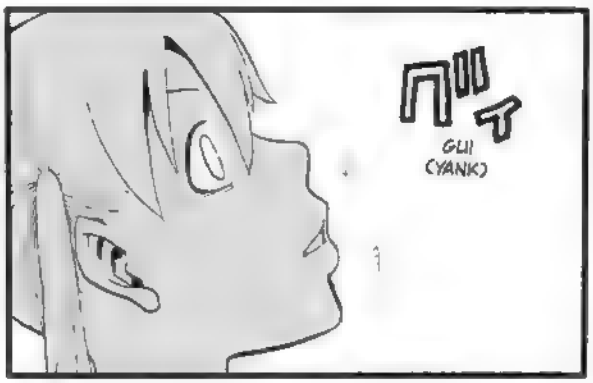

YOU'RE THE WORST, KID...
INSTEAD, YOU'RE JUST SITTING HERE... POINTLESSLY FRETTING.
...BUT YOU WON'T GO HOME AND CHECK ON THE STUFF THAT BOTHERS YOU EITHER.
YOU WON'T GO INSIDE AND HELP MAKA...

YOU'RE JUST AS BAD, ONEE-CHAN.
BESIDES, BLAIR'S WITH THEM, RIGHT? THEY SHOULD BE FINE, RIGHT?
W-WELL... I GUESS I'M NONE TOO FOND OF MONSTERS MYSELF...
BOSO (MUMBLE)

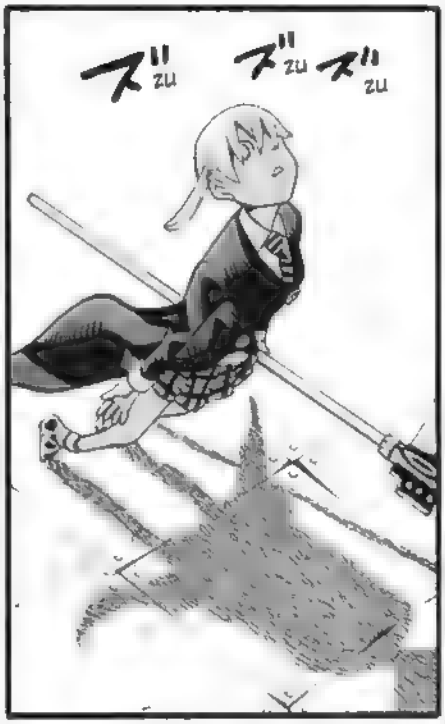
BUT THAT IS THE QUES-TION!
AND WHAT A QUES-TION...

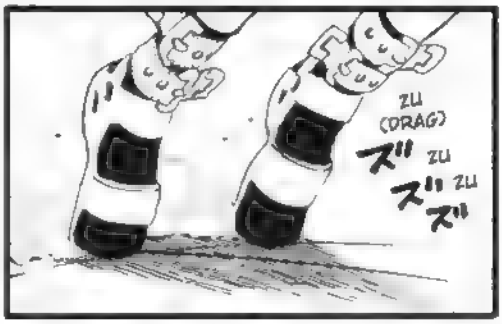
"TO GO IN, OR TO GO HOME. THAT IS THE QUESTION."
WASN'T IT SHAKE-SPEARE WHO SAID IT...?
I THINK THAT'S A LITTLE OFF.

LIKE I SAID, PRINCESSES ARE THE WORST.
..."LET THE WORLD GO TO HELL, AS LONG AS I DON'T RUN INTO ANY MONSTERS."
LISTEN, PATTY, I HAVE A SAYING...

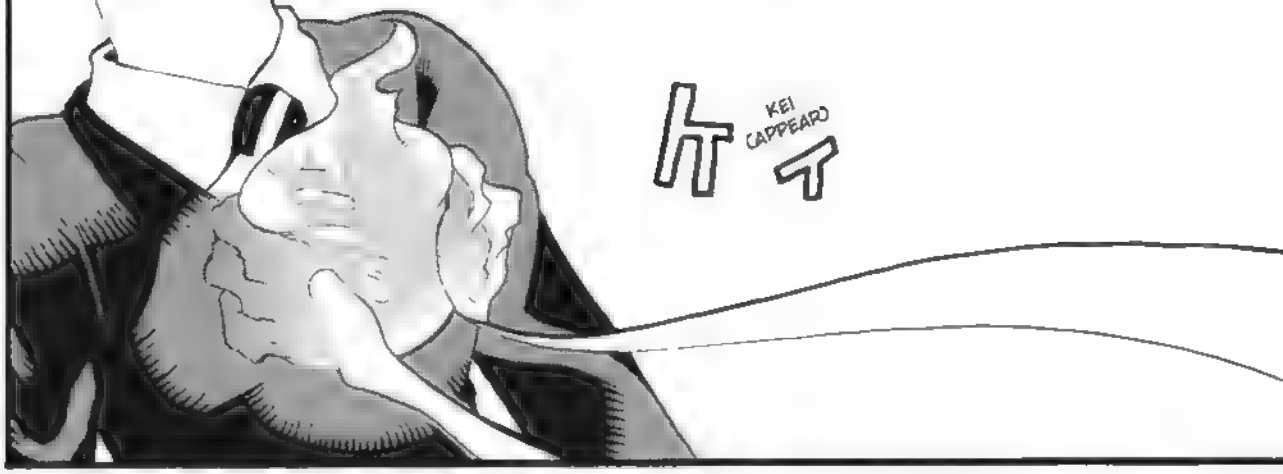

GUI
(YANK)

I SUPPOSE A WEAPON CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE.


ZU
ZU
ZU


ZU
(DRAG)
ZU
ZU
ZU

WHOA...! WHAT'S GOING ON? MAKA!?


KEI
CAPPEARD

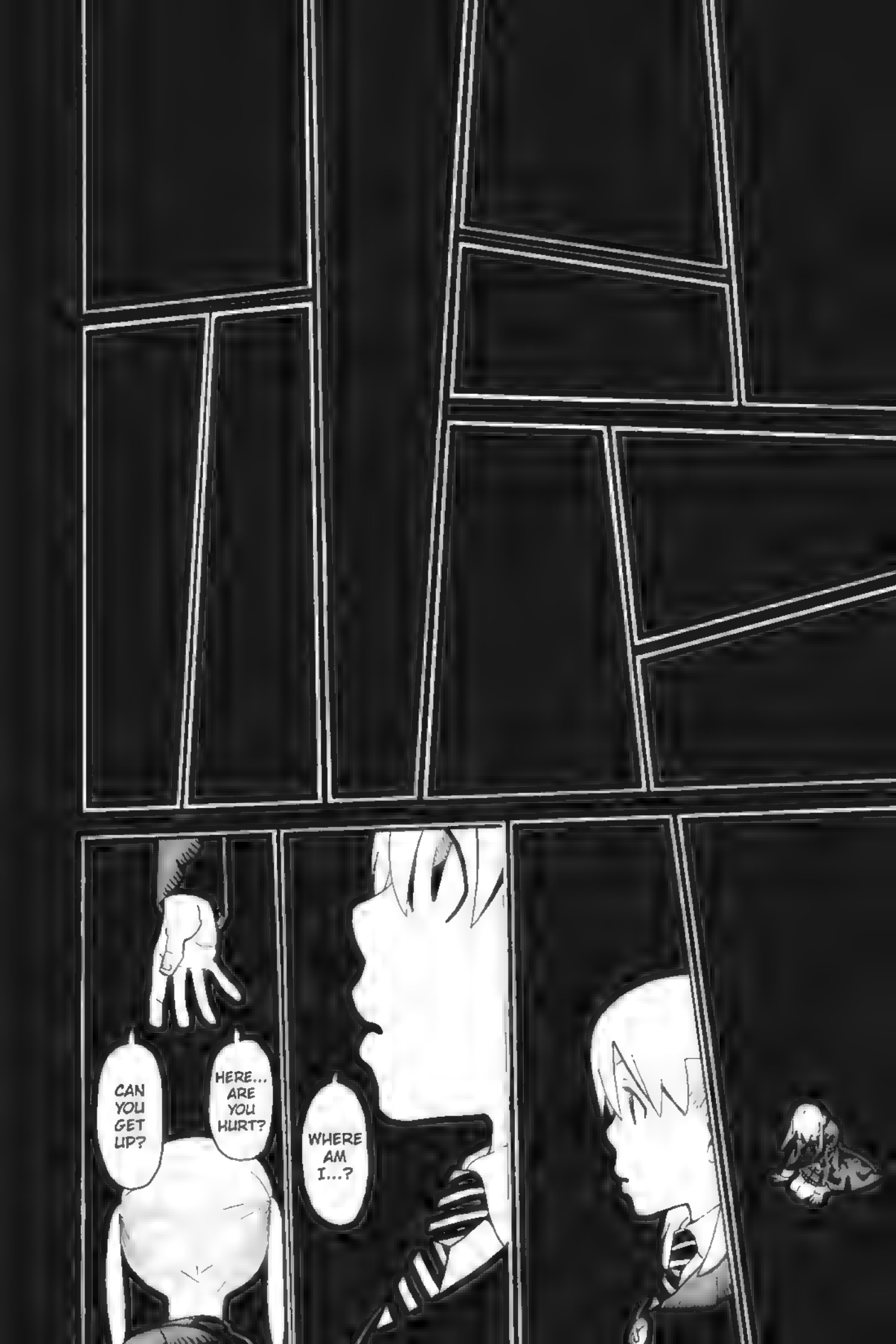
GUI
(TUG)

COME...
COME...

I WILL GIVE YOU THE ONLY TRUE FREEDOM YOU'LL EVER KNOW.
COME ON, COME TO ME...

NO ...
SOUL ...

KARAN (CLATTER)
カラン
KARAN
カラン
MAKA!
GOBA (WHOOM)
YOU SON OF A...!!


CAN YOU GET UP?
HERE... ARE YOU HURT?
WHERE AM I...?

YOU'RE SUCH A BIG GIRL, AREN'T YOU, MAKA? YOU FALL DOWN AND YOU DON'T EVEN CRY, HUH?
NHE HEE HEE!
YES, PAPA.
YOU'RE STILL TOO LITTLE, KIDDO. YOU CAN'T GO TO SCHOOL THERE YET.
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T CRY.
IT'S 'COS I'M GONNA GO TO SCHOOL AT DWMA TOO.
HE'S NOT A DWMA STUDENT.
THAT BOY WAS TAKEN IN BY THE SCHOOL ON THE VERY SAME DAY YOU WERE BORN, MAKA.
OH ...
CHO-WAH! ☆
BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT BOY OVER THERE?
PAPA SAYS NO, HONEY!! YOU'RE STILL TWENTY YEARS AWAY FROM HAVING A BOY-FRIEND!
HE'S SO COOL, HUH?
HYAH! ☆
PAN (WHAP)

PAPA?
PAPA!
PAPA ...
IT'S TOO LATE.
HE'S ALREADY DEAD...

BUT WHY!? WHY'S HE DEAD!?
I WAS TOO WEAK ...
...HE DIED BECAUSE I WAS TOO WEAK...
IT'S BECAUSE I WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH.
THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T STOP CRONA EITHER.
ISN'T THAT A MOURNING BAND YOU'VE GOT TIED ON YOUR ARM?
SOME-ONE'S DEAD.
SOMEONE AT DWMA IS DEAD.
AND TOMORROW IT COULD BE YOU.
TOMORROW EVERYONE MIGHT TIE A MOURNING BAND AROUND THEIR ARM FOR YOU.

HE DIED BECAUSE YOU WERE WEAK. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO MY SOUL!
JUST GIMME MY PAPA BACK!
BOTO
BOTO
BOTO
BOTO (THUMP)
STOP! STOP THIS!!
PETA (TOUCH)
PETA
PETA
...

YOU AND I ARE NOW ONE.
I SEE IT NOW...THE CLOWN ACTS LIKE A MIRROR TO ME.
THIS IS THE REAL ME...
SUCH A FEELING OF FREEDOM ...
IN THE END, THE CLOWN IS THE ONE WHO SHOWS ME THE TRUTH.

MAKA!!!
CAN YOU HEAR ME!?
MAKA!!
SENSE MY PRES-ENCE!!
SENSE MY SOUL WAVE-LENGTH ...
SENSE IT...

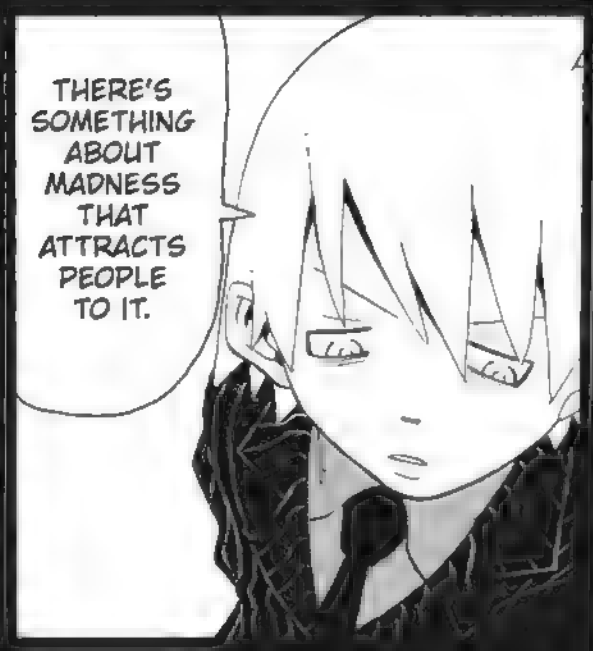
...
PIKU (TWITCH)
SU (SLIDE)
MAKA ...
...HAVE A SEAT.

GII
(CREAK)

NOT ON THE END.
OH ...
OKAY ...

DIDN'T YOU SENSE IT WHEN YOU HEARD ME PLAY?
THERE'S MADNESS IN MY PIANO PLAYING.

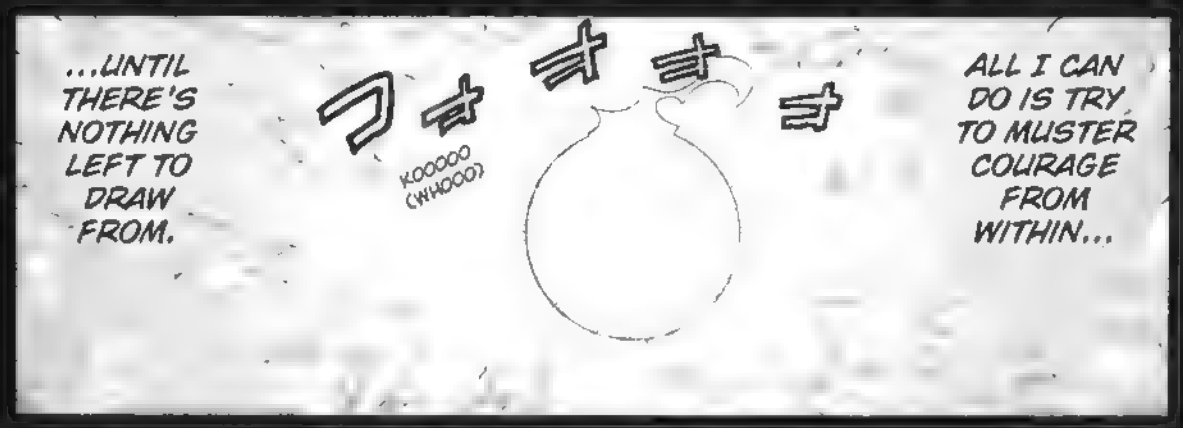
SEE?
SEE WHAT?


THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MADNESS THAT ATTRACTS PEOPLE TO IT.

THAT'S NOT TRUE.
I MAY NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT MUSIC, BUT I REALLY LOVE YOUR PIANO PLAYING, SOUL.

...THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE SOUL THAT FIGHTS DESPERATELY AGAINST THE LURE OF FALLING INTO MADNESS...EVEN IN THE MIDST OF INTENSE FEAR...
I THINK YOU KNOW THIS BETTER THAN ANYONE, MAKA...
I THINK THAT MIGHT BE WHERE ITS TRUE STRENGTH LIES.
MAYBE THAT'S THE REAL REASON WHY IT'S SO ALLURING.
MADNESS GIVES YOU POWER.
BUT I REALIZED SOMETHING WHEN I PLAYED THIS PIANO DURING THE BATTLE FOR "BREW."
PIKI (CRACK)
PARA (CRUMBLE)
BUT LET ME ASK YOU— WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT STRENGTH IS?
MADNESS IS THE SOURCE OF STRENGTH ...
"MADNESS IS THE SOURCE OF COURAGE"— IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE TOO CONVENIENT, BUT...
...I SAY WE PLACE OUR FAITH IN THAT.
COUR-AGE.
RIGHT, SOUL.
WE HAVE TO TELL CRONA THAT TOO.

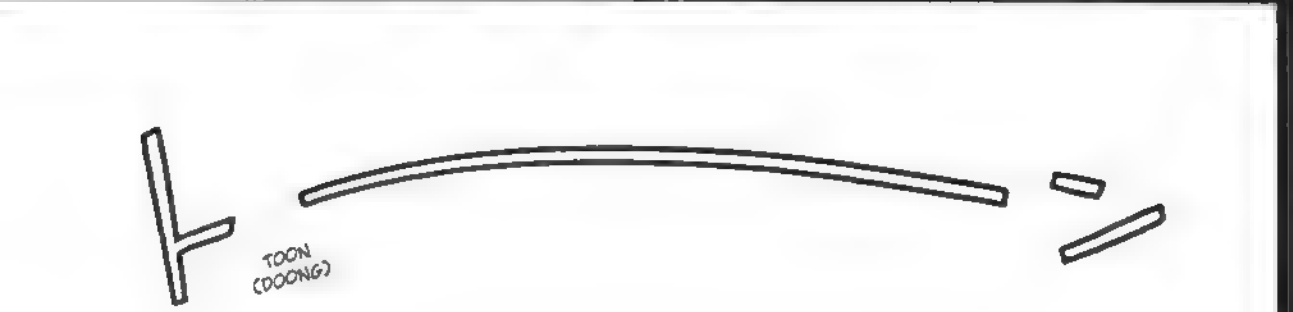
I'M NOT POWERFUL LIKE BLACK☆STAR OR KID.


...UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO DRAW FROM.
ウォォォ
KOOOOO (WHOOO)
ALL I CAN DO IS TRY TO MUSTER COURAGE FROM WITHIN...

MAKA... TAKE MY HAND.
?

I have a well of courage ...
...and I'm not even close to seeing the bottom of it.

I CAN'T SEE SOULS LIKE YOU CAN...
...SO YOU HAVE TO LET ME HEAR IT INSTEAD.
JUST ONE NOTE IS ALL I NEED ...
A NOTE THAT YOU CHOOSE.



TOON
(DOONG)

WHAT ON EARTH !!?

"G." HUH...? HONEST AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD... IT SUITS YOU, MAKA.

!!

WHERE DID THIS POWERFUL ANTI-DEMON WAVELENGTH COME FROM ...!!?

DO (BOOM)

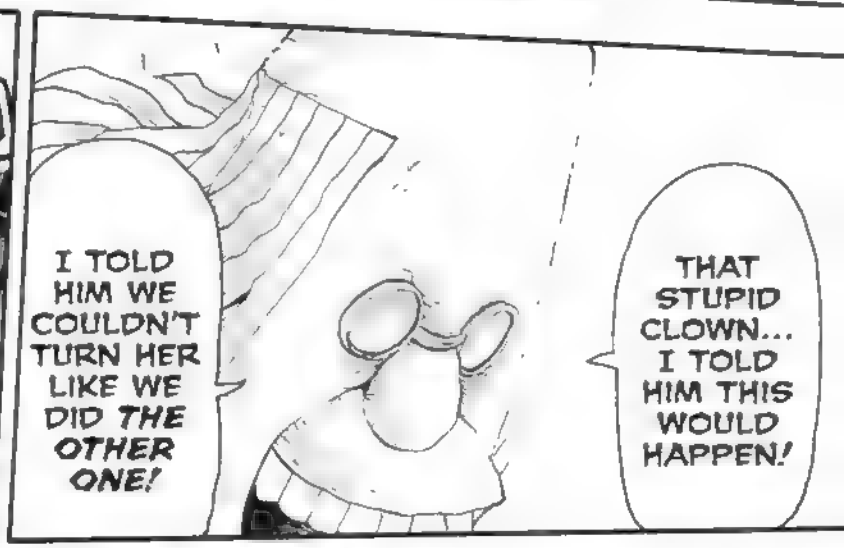
BOU (WHOOM)

...RESONANCE!

SOUL!!

OOOOOO
(FWOOOO)

MEOWIE... THIS LIGHT IS TOO BRIGHT, EVEN FOR A MONSTER KITTY LIKE BLAIR.


I TOLD HIM WE COULDN'T TURN HER LIKE WE DID *THE OTHER ONE!*
THAT STUPID CLOWN... I TOLD HIM THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

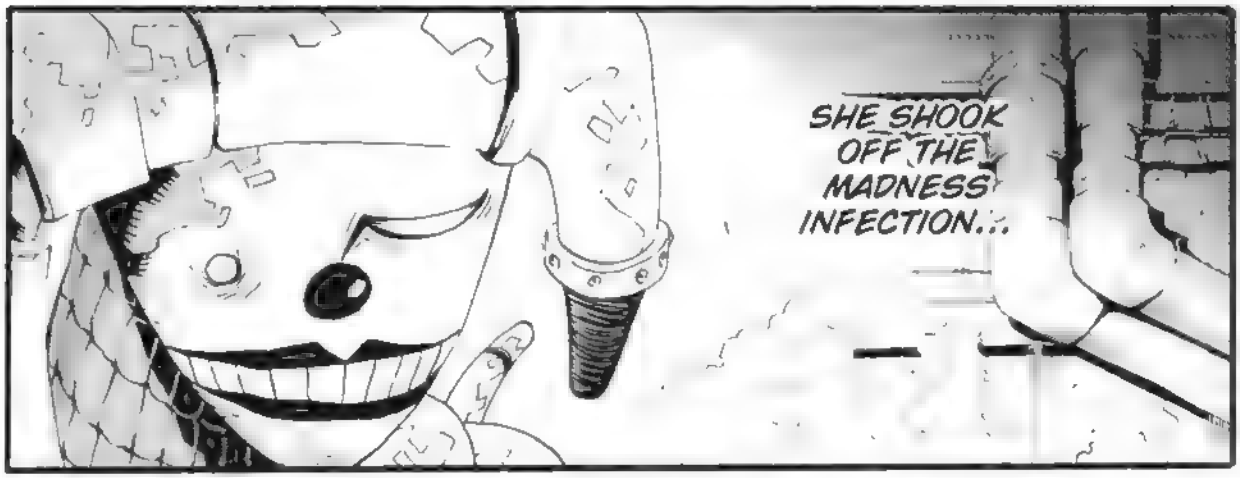
KOOOOO
(WHOOOO)

WHAT!!? HOW ARE YOU STILL HERE!!?
MEOW, SO BRIGHT ...
BECAUSE I'M BU-TAN, OF COURSE.

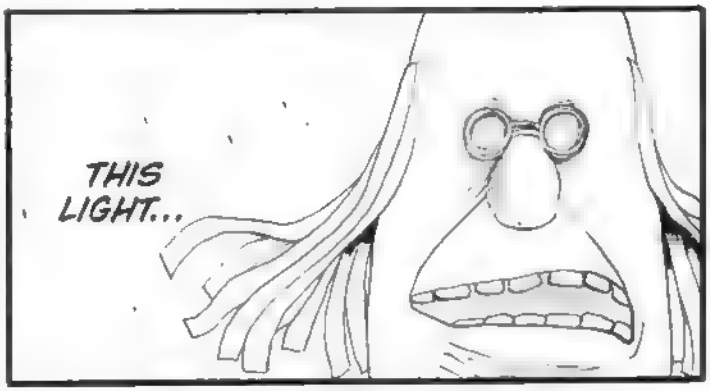
GOOOOOO (ROOOOAR)
HYAA AAAA AAH!
WITCH-HUNT SLASH?
YOU WON'T EVEN TOUCH ME WITH A PUNY ATTACK LIKE THAT.
SOUL...
...THIS FEELS DIFFERENT FROM HOW IT USUALLY DOES...
I KNOW.
THIS IS A WITCH-HUNT SLASH BEYOND THE USUAL WITCH-HUNT SLASH.

DEVIL-
HUNT
SLASH!
LET'S
DO IT.

SOUL EATER

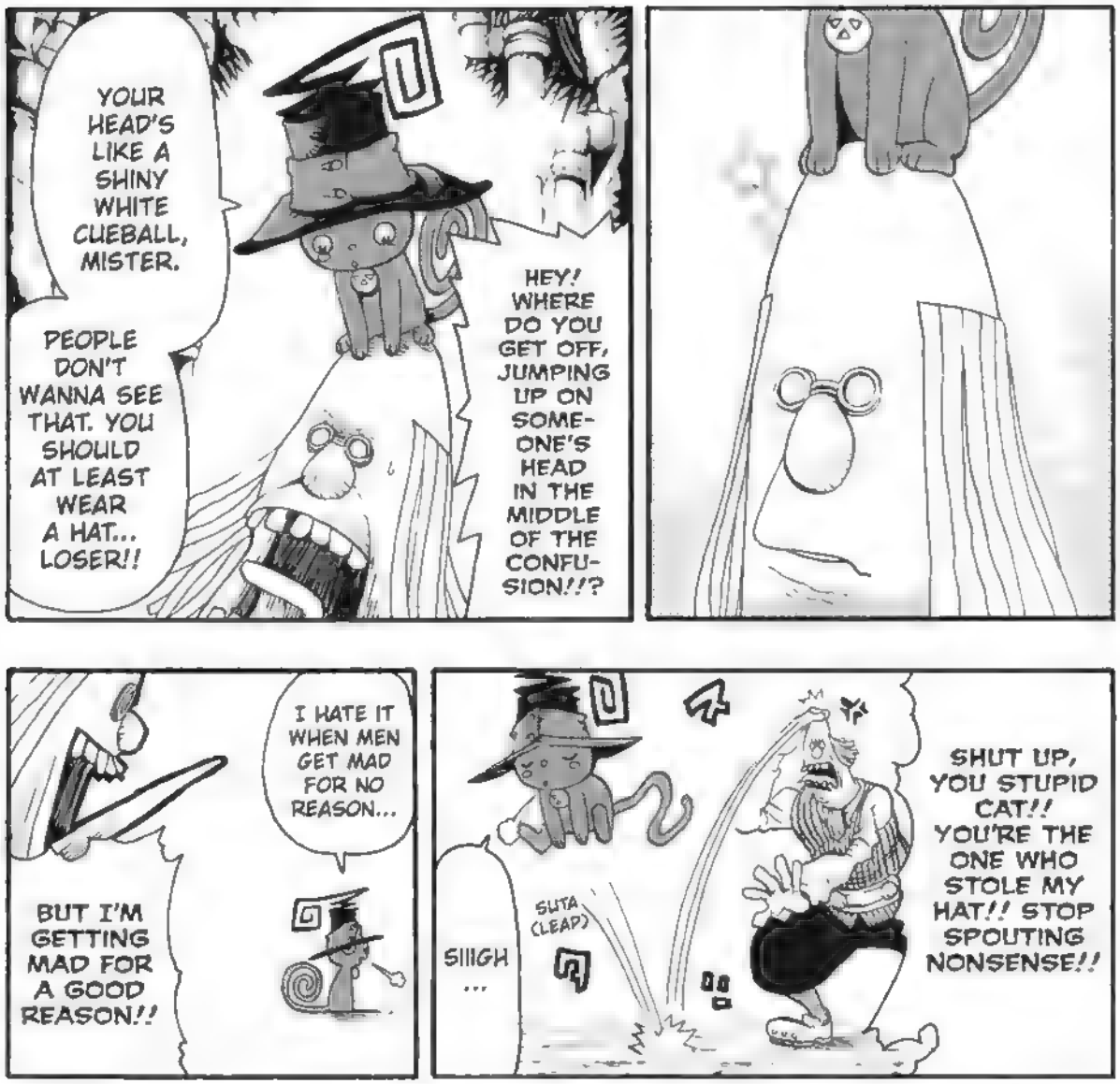

SHE SHOOK OFF THE MADNESS INFECTION...

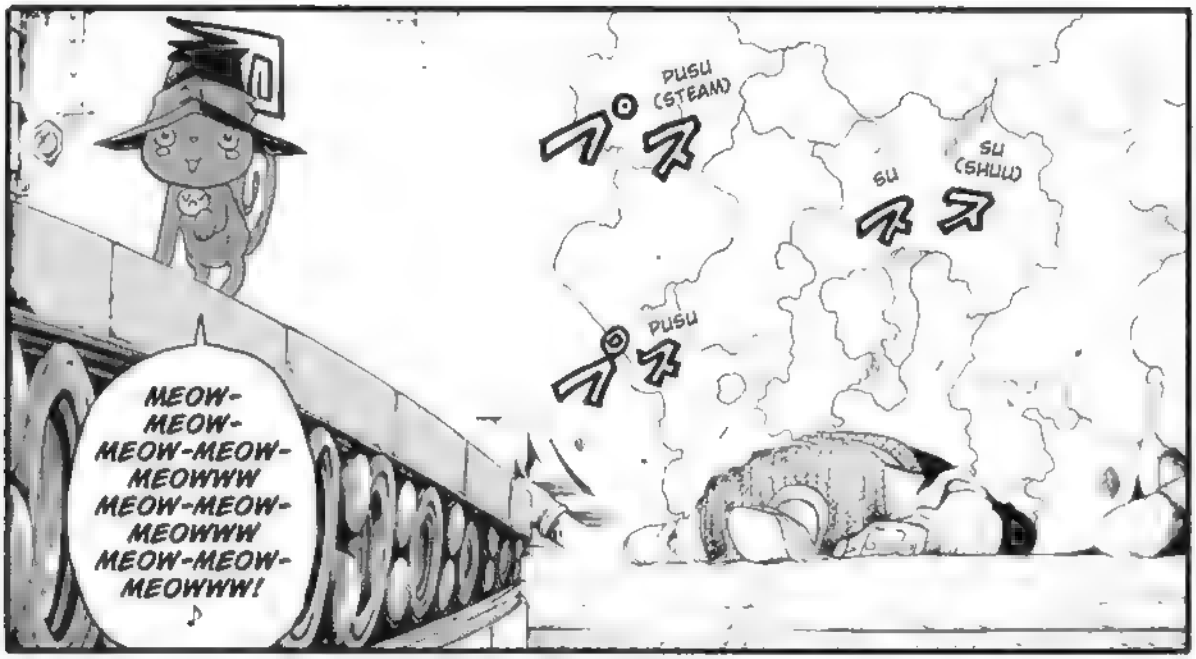
IT'S SO BRIGHT...!


THIS LIGHT...

SOUL EATER

CHAPTER 43: THE CLOWN (PART 3)


YOUR HEAD'S LIKE A SHINY WHITE CUEBALL, MISTER.
PEOPLE DON'T WANNA SEE THAT. YOU SHOULD AT LEAST WEAR A HAT... LOSER!!
HEY! WHERE DO YOU GET OFF, JUMPING UP ON SOME-ONE'S HEAD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CONFU-SION!!?
I HATE IT WHEN MEN GET MAD FOR NO REASON...
BUT I'M GETTING MAD FOR A GOOD REASON!!
SHUT UP, YOU STUPID CAT!! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO STOLE MY HAT!! STOP SPOUTING NONSENSE!!
SUTA (LEAP)
SIIIGH ...
PUMPKIN CANNON.
BO (BOOM)
BFFF!
IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO LET YOU OFF THE HOOK FOR THIS JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE CUTE, YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THING COMING!! I'LL GRAB YOU BY THE SCRUFF OF YOUR SKINNY LITTLE NECK AND RIP YOU LIMB FROM LIMB!!
YOU SPITEFUL LITTLE BONE-HEADED CAT CRETIN!!


MEOW-MEOW-MEOW-MEOWWW MEOW-MEOW-MEOWWW MEOW-MEOW-MEOWWW!
♪
PUSU (STEAM)
SU
SU (SHUU)
PUSU

GYAAAA!

GI (SCREE)
YOU'RE STANDING WHERE YOU SHOULDN'T BE STANDING, HEH-HEH.
YOU JUST STEPPED WHERE YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE STEPPED, LITTLE KITTY.

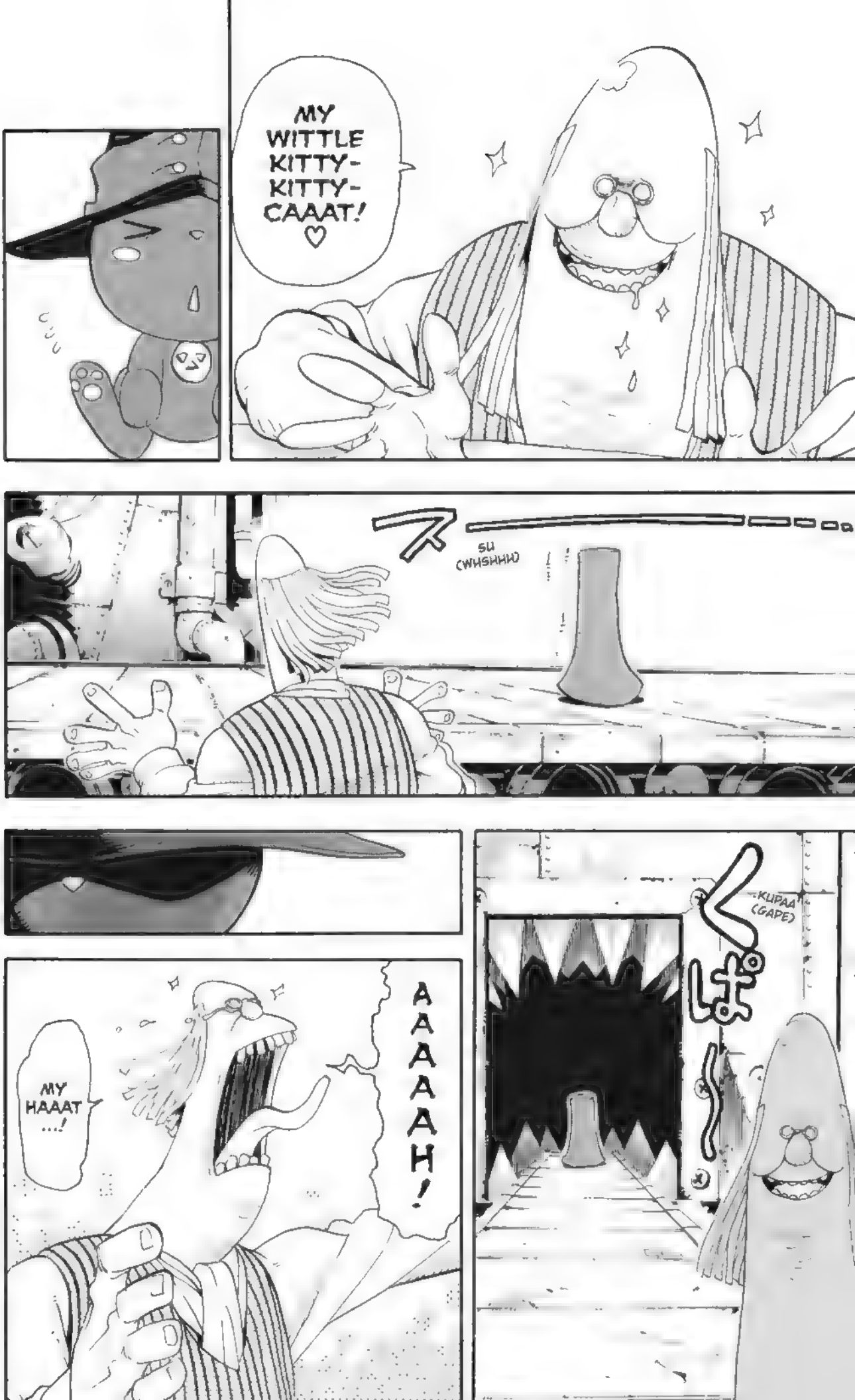
YOU FLEA-BITTEN ...!! GIVE ME BACK MY HAT!!

COME ON, KITTY-KITTY-CAT!
ガシャン
GASHAN (CRANK)
NIDHOGG!!

MEOW !?
A CON-VEYOR BELT ...?
(WHRRRR)

HEEERE, KITTY-KITTY! ♪
PAN
PAN (CLAP)
COME TO ME, KITTY. COME TO ME.
MEOOW!
TA
TA
TA
TA (DASH)

GAJIN (CRUSH)
GAJIN
BAKAN (KRANCH)
BAKAN
COME HERE
TA
TA
TA
TA


MY WITTLE KITTY-KITTY-CAAAT!
SU (WHSHHH)
KUPAA (GAPE)
MY HAAAT...!
AAAAAH!

SUURI
すーり
SURI
すり
SUURI
すーり
SURI (RUB)
AHHH! I GOT IT! THANK GOOD-NESS!
I'M SO HAPPY!
HEH.
ガ
GA (GRAB)
AHYAUGHH!
MYA HAH HAH HAH HAH! ♡
ぐちゃ
GUCHA (SQUELCH)
べちゃ
BECHA (SPLAT)
ぐち
GUCHI (SPURT)
みち
MICHI (SQUISH)
ごり
GORI (CRUNCH)
スッ
SU (SHOOP)

MAKA ...

...WHAT THE HELL IS THAT CLOWN, ANYWAY?

I DON'T HAVE SOUL PERCEPTION LIKE YOU DO...

...BUT EVEN I CAN SEE THERE'S SOMETHING MORE TO HIM...

IT'S LIKE I'M BEING DRAWN TOWARD HIM FOR SOME REASON...

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT??

I'M NOT TRYING TO HIDE ANYTHING FROM YOU.

I AM THE CONTAGION OF MADNESS.

I AM MADNESS INCARNATE.

THAT MAKES SENSE... NOW I SEE WHY HE HAS THE SAME WAVELENGTH AS ASURA.

I DIDN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND UNTIL AFTER I GOT SUCKED INTO THE MADNESS, BUT...

...PROFESSOR STEIN'S THEORY IS DEAD ON THE MARK— MADNESS IS CONTAGIOUS.

THIS CLOWN COULD BE TELLING THE TRUTH. HE MIGHT REALLY BE SOME KIND OF MANIFESTATION OF THE MADNESS INFECTION.

THERE ARE HORRORS YOU CAN'T SEE...

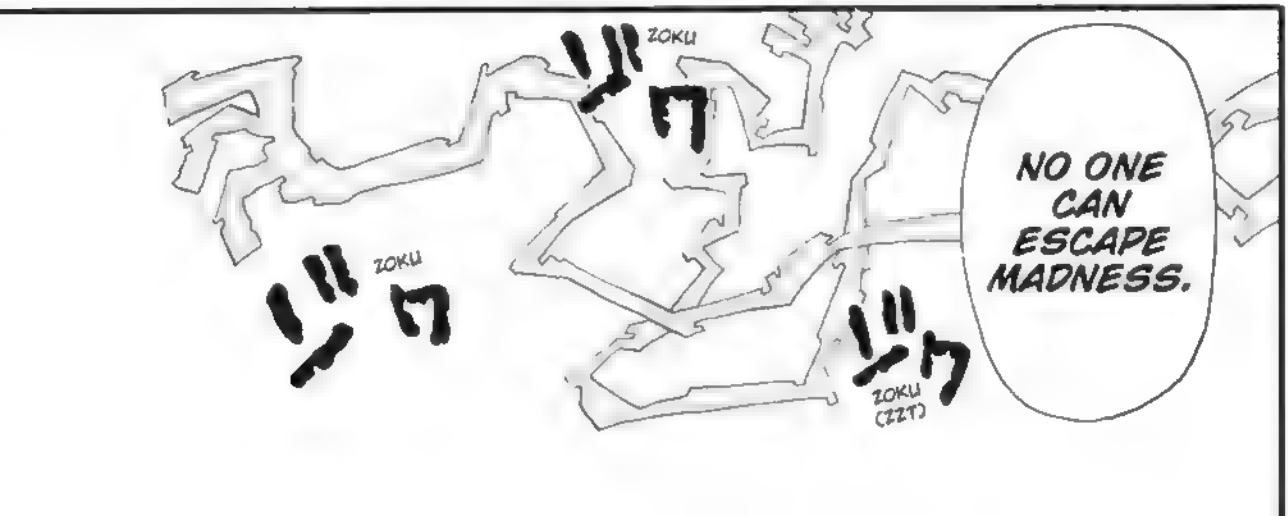
...BUT I AM A HORROR YOU CAN SEE...

I AM THE VERY EMBODIMENT OF THE CONTAGION OF MADNESS UNLEASHED BY THE KISHIN ASURA.

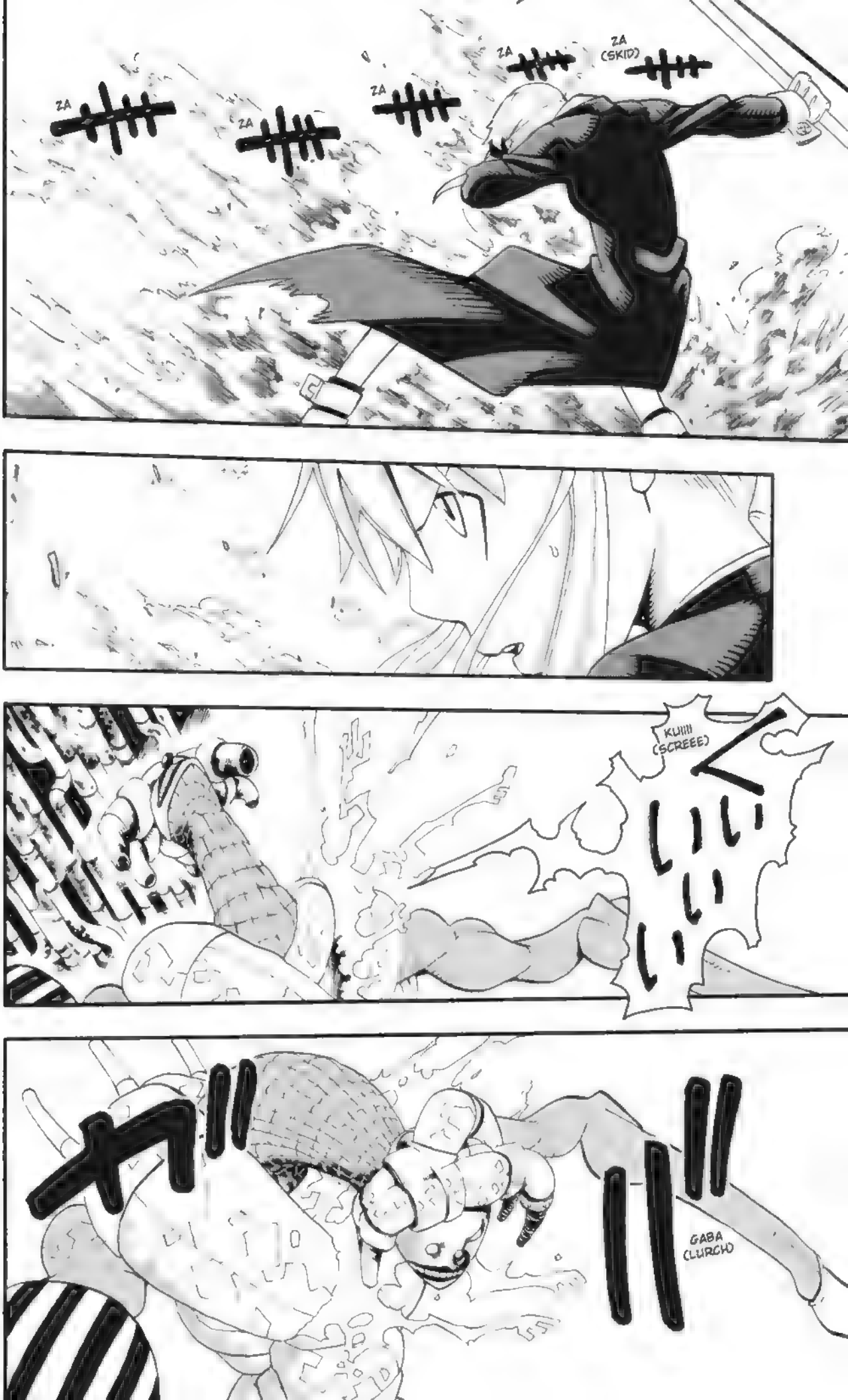
SOONER THAN YOU EXPECTED, ISN'T IT?
THAT, MY FRIENDS, IS A MEASURE OF HOW SICK THE WORLD TRULY IS.
THE OUTBREAK OF MADNESS HAS ALREADY BEGUN.

THE MADNESS IS GOING TO START SPREADING FASTER AND FASTER.
YEAH.

MAKA... WE GOTTA CRUSH THIS GUY RIGHT HERE AND NOW.


ZOKU
ZOKU
ZOKU (ZZT)
NO ONE CAN ESCAPE MADNESS.

BYU
(WHOOSH)
BACHI
(CRACKLE)
CHI
TA
(LEAP)


ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA (SKID)
KUIII (SCREEE)
GABA (LURCH)

CLOWN MA-CHINE GUN!!!!
DO
DO
DO
DO (BLAM)
CLOWN LARIAT!

GI (SCREE)
I AM!!
FIGHT THE MAD-NESS, MAKA!!
GA (WHACK)
SUPA (SLICE)

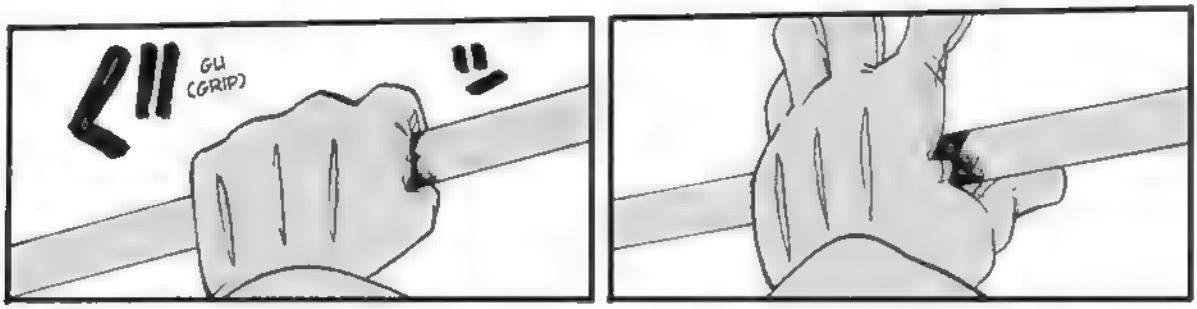
INFEC-TION!
DOPYU (BURST)
EEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!

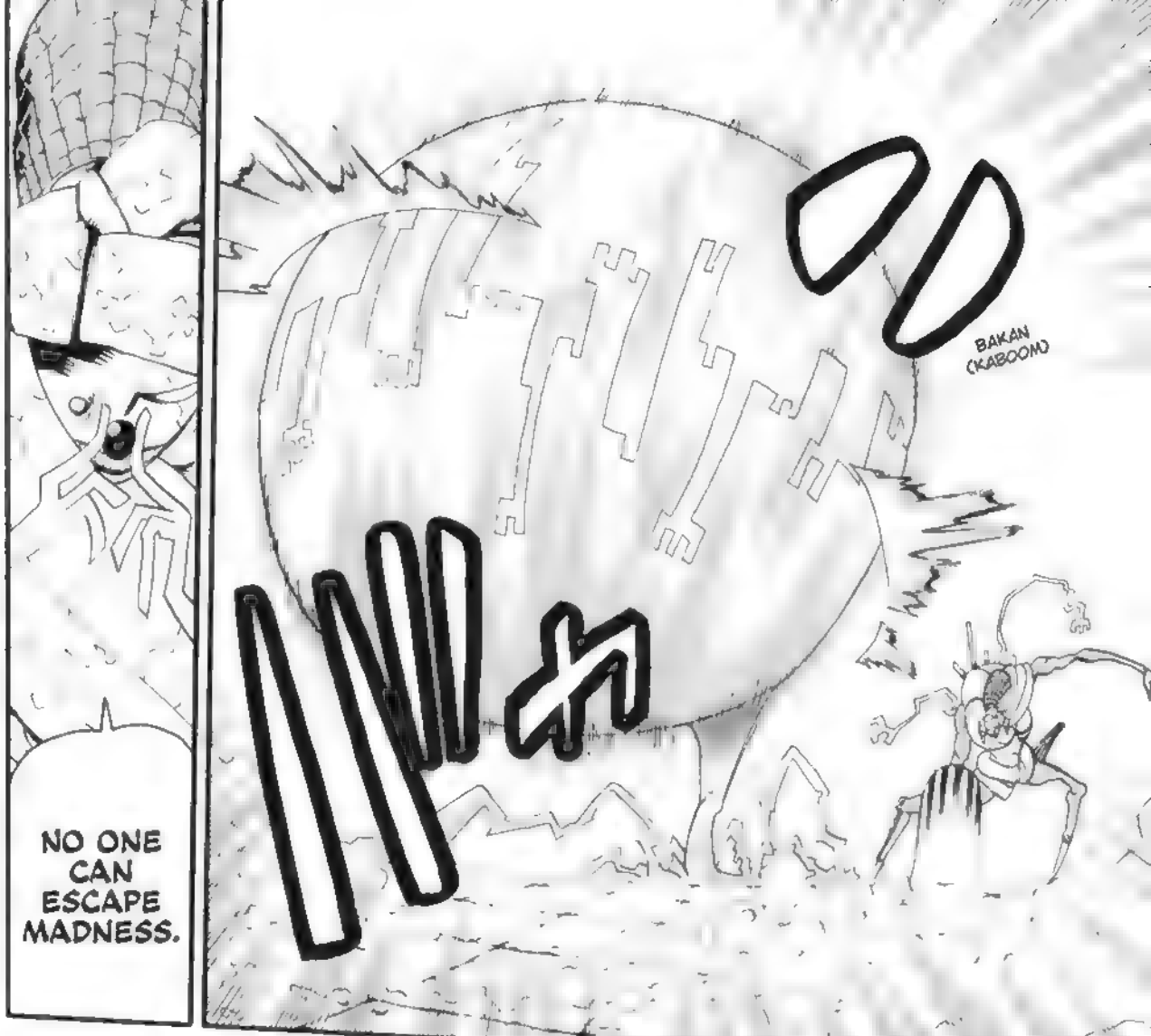
ARE YOU OKAY!?
DO
DO
DO (STAB)
INFEC-TION!!
THIS ISN'T ENOUGH TO SUCK ME IN.
IN THAT CASE...
IN-DEED?
INFEC-TION!
INFEC-TION!

GABA (CHOMP)
MAGNIFIED INFECTION!!
SHUT UP!!
OOOOO (VWOOOM)

MAKA.
COUR-
AGE.

RIGHT!!


GU
(GRIP)


NO ONE CAN ESCAPE MADNESS.
BAKAN (KABOOM)

GYUUUUUUU
MEKI
MEKI (SNAP)
I WANT TO SEE YOU CRUSHED BY THE FEAR!
GYUUUUUUU (SQUIIIISH)

I WANT TO SEE YOU SQUISHED!!
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA! WEE-HEE-HEE-HEE-HEE-HEE!
GYUUUU (SQUIIISH)

LETTER "I" HUNT SLASH !!!

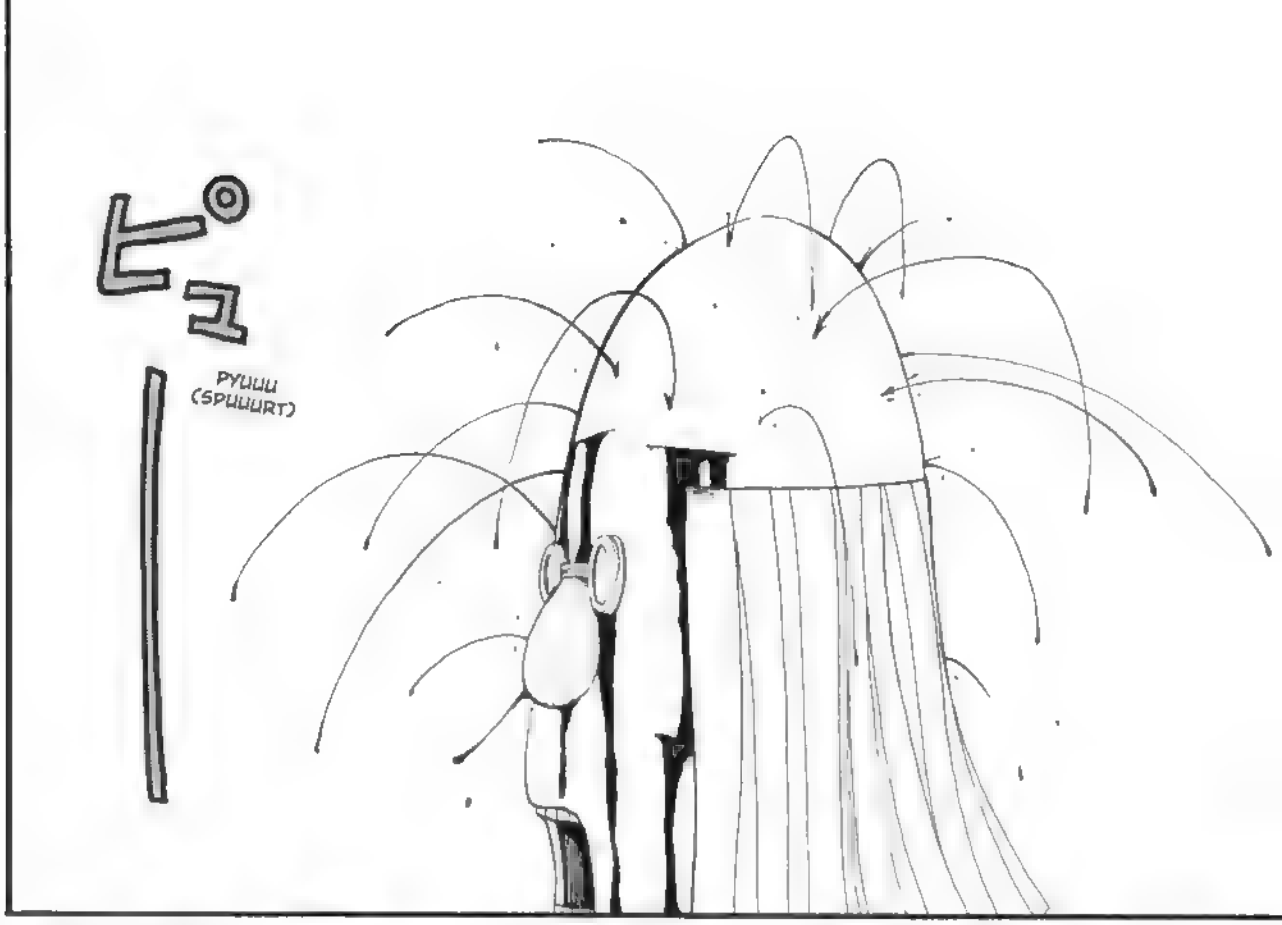
BON
(BOOM)

...BUT WE NEVER DID GET THE CLOWN TO COUGH UP THE KISHIN'S WHEREABOUTS, DID WE?

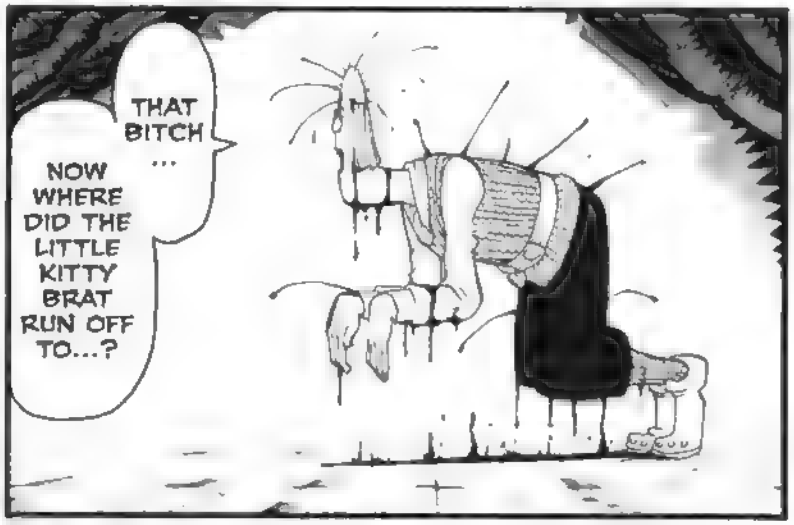
...
SOUL.
SOUL RETRIEV-AL COM-PLETE...
YUP.

KOOOOO
(WHOOO)

PAKAN (POP)
GYO
GYOE (SHOCK)
PISHI (CRACK)
PAN (POP)
BECAUSE I WILL ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE! ♪
GYA GYA GYA GYA!
THE CONTAGION OF MADNESS GROWS STRONGER BY THE DAY! YOU WON'T ESCAPE MY GRASP NEXT TIME!!
GYA! GYA! GYA!
BUT WAIT...TELL US WHERE THE KISHIN IS...!
PARA
PARA (FLIT)
THERE GOES OUR HARD-WON SOUL...


ピュ
PYUUU (SPUUURT)

ポリ ポリ
PORI (SCRATCH) PORI


NOW WHERE DID THE LITTLE KITTY BRAT RUN OFF TO...?
THAT BITCH ...

HM?
CHON
CHON (TAP)
THIS?

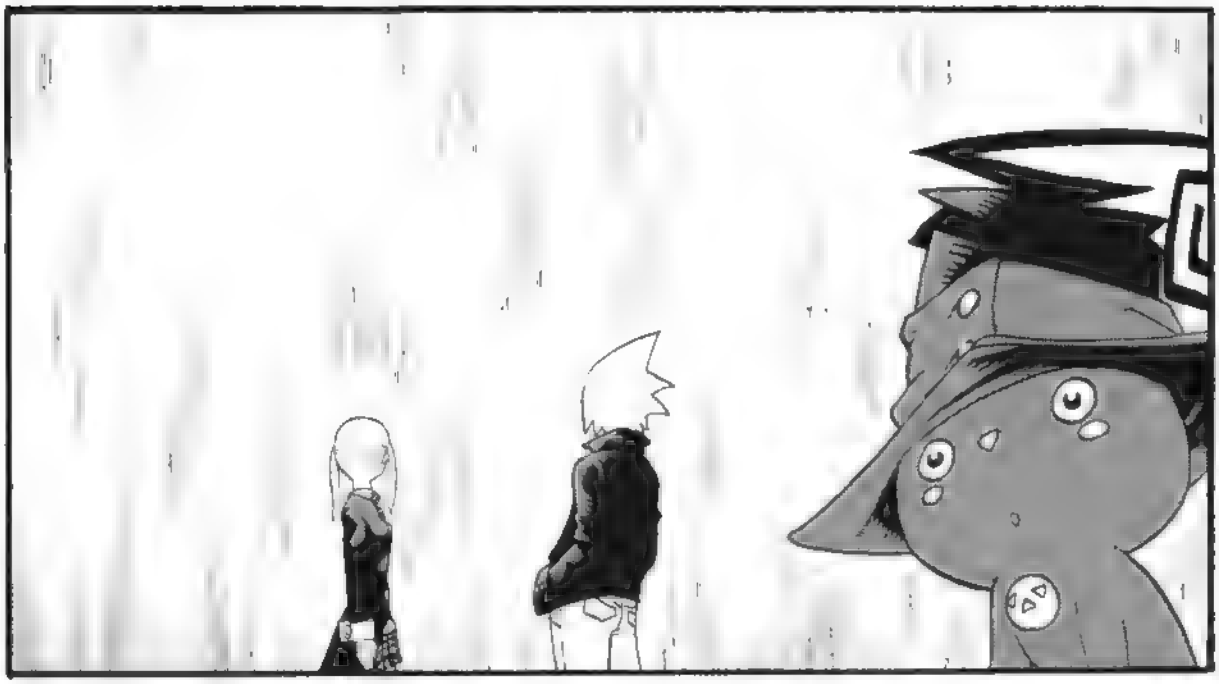
MEOW?
GET AWAY FROM THAT FACTORY SELF-DESTRUCT BUTTON!!
AHHHH!! YOUUU!! GET AWAY FROM THERE!!

SO WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T PRESS THAT BUTTON!!
LISTEN TO ME... DO NOT PRESS THAT BUTTON!! DO NOT PRESS IT, NO MATTER WHAT!!
THERE WON'T EVEN BE AN EXPLOSION, IT'LL JUST DISAPPEAR IN A BLINDING FLASH!
I WORKED SO HARD CREATING THIS NIDHOGG FACTORY, BUT IF YOU PRESS THAT BUTTON, THE WHOLE THING WILL BE VAPORIZED WITHOUT A TRACE!
YOU PEOPLE WON'T BE HURT, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE INSIDE...I'LL BE THE ONLY ONE WHO SUFFERS DAMAGE!!
HEH.
BA (GRAB)
AHHH! MY HAT!
POCHI (CLICK)
KAPO (PLOP)
THAT SYOUNDS LIKE A REALLY IMPOR-TANT BUTTON.
MEW SHOULD REALLY KEEP A BUTTON LIKE THAT HIDDEN FROM SIGHT.
FUCK!!!
CLICK?

FAAA (FLASH)
HM?
POKE, POKE.
QUIT IT. STOP POKING ME WITH THAT STICK.

...DISAP-PEARED.
THE WHOLE FAC-TORY JUST ...

FAAA

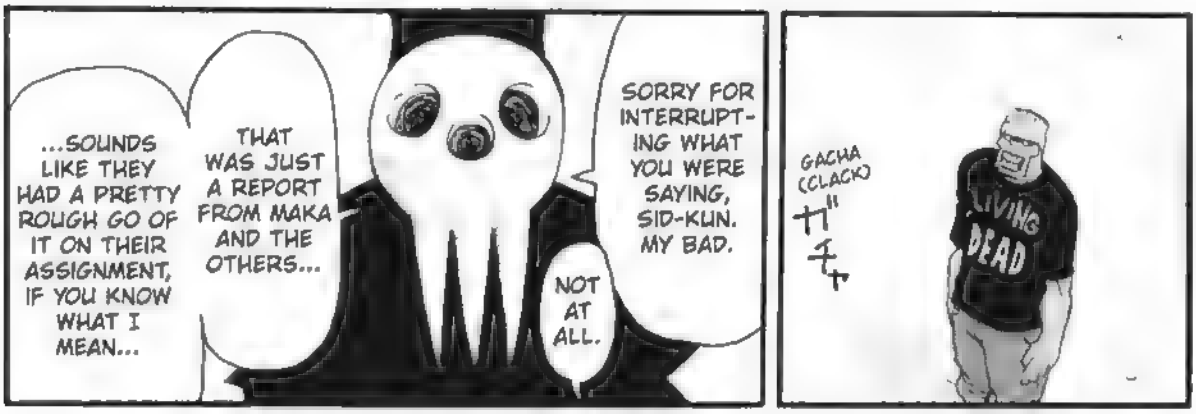


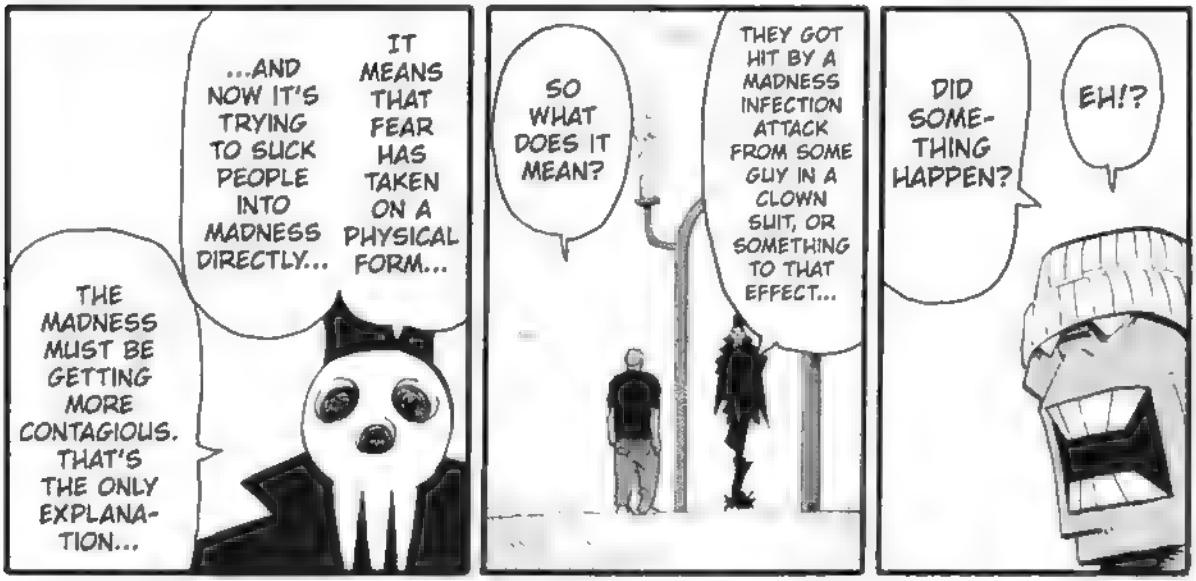
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S IT FOR THIS EXTRA-CURRICULAR ASSIGN-MENT.
LET'S GO GIVE OUR REPORT TO SHINIGAMI-SAMA.
OKAY.

ZOKU (SHUDDER)

YOU WON'T ESCAPE MY GRASP NEXT TIME...

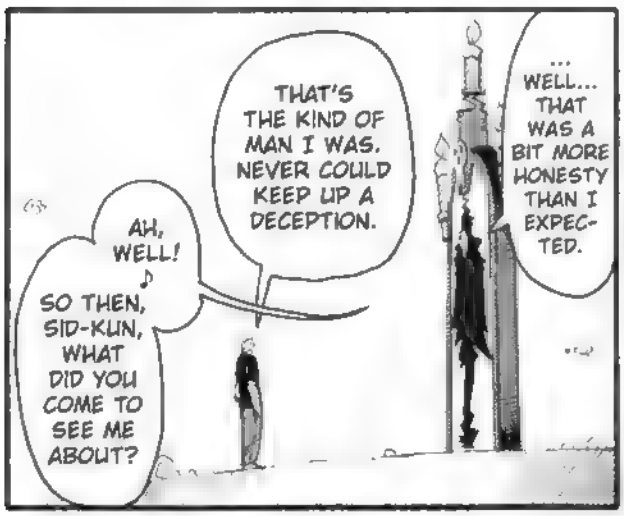
BACK AT DWMA!!
OH-HO?
IS THAT SO?
ANYHOO! GREAT JOB, YOU TWO.
ALL-RIGHTY, THEN...STAY SAFE ON YOUR WAY HOME, 'KAY?♪ AND REMEMBER! THE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ASSIGNMENT DOESN'T END TILL YOU MAKE IT BACK HOME!


SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING WHAT YOU WERE SAYING, SID-KUN. MY BAD.
NOT AT ALL.
THAT WAS JUST A REPORT FROM MAKA AND THE OTHERS...
...SOUNDS LIKE THEY HAD A PRETTY ROUGH GO OF IT ON THEIR ASSIGNMENT, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN...
GACHA (CLACK)
LIVING DEAD


IT MEANS THAT FEAR HAS TAKEN ON A PHYSICAL FORM...
...AND NOW IT'S TRYING TO SUCK PEOPLE INTO MADNESS DIRECTLY...
THE MADNESS MUST BE GETTING MORE CONTAGIOUS. THAT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION...
SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
THEY GOT HIT BY A MADNESS INFECTION ATTACK FROM SOME GUY IN A CLOWN SUIT, OR SOMETHING TO THAT EFFECT...
EH!?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

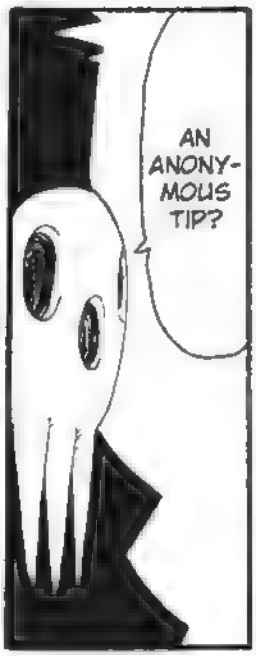
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE MIGHT'VE GONE...?
I WISH WE COULD GET A MORE DETAILED EXPLANATION FROM HIM...BUT UNFORTUNATELY, STEIN'S ON THE LAM.
YOU'RE NOT SECRETLY IN CONTACT WITH HIM OR ANYTHING, RIGHT? NOTHING LIKE THAT?

NO WAY...
THEN IT'S HAPPENING WAY FASTER THAN EVEN STEIN PREDICTED, ISN'T IT...?


AH, WELL! ♪
SO THEN, SID-KUN, WHAT DID YOU COME TO SEE ME ABOUT?
THAT'S THE KIND OF MAN I WAS. NEVER COULD KEEP UP A DECEPTION.
... WELL... THAT WAS A BIT MORE HONESTY THAN I EXPECTED.

...I HONESTLY HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE IS RIGHT NOW.
I OPENLY ADMIT THAT WE KNOWINGLY DISOBEYED ORDERS AND LET THE GUY GO, BUT...

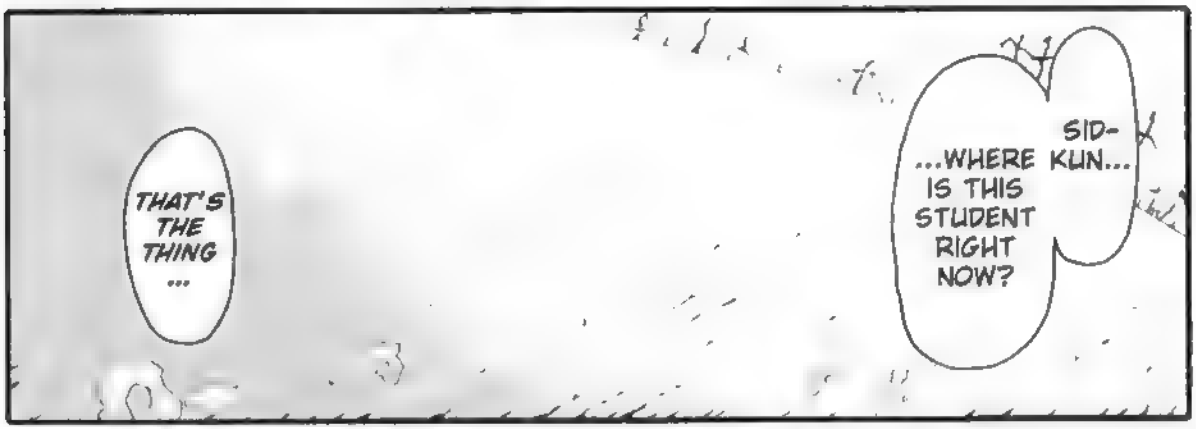
UH-HUH.
LET'S TAKE A LOOK.
YES.
HERE.


AN ANONY-MOUS TIP?

WE DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHO SENT IT...
...BUT THIS LETTER ARRIVED IN THE MAIL, AND IT CONTAINS SOME VERY CRITICAL INFORMATION ...
RIGHT.
I CAME ...
...ABOUT THIS...

"THREE WITCHES HAVE INFILTRATED DEATH CITY AND ARE QUIETLY HIDING OUT HERE"...
!!

.....
THERE'S A LIST OF THE THREE NAMES IN THAT LETTER I JUST HANDED YOU.

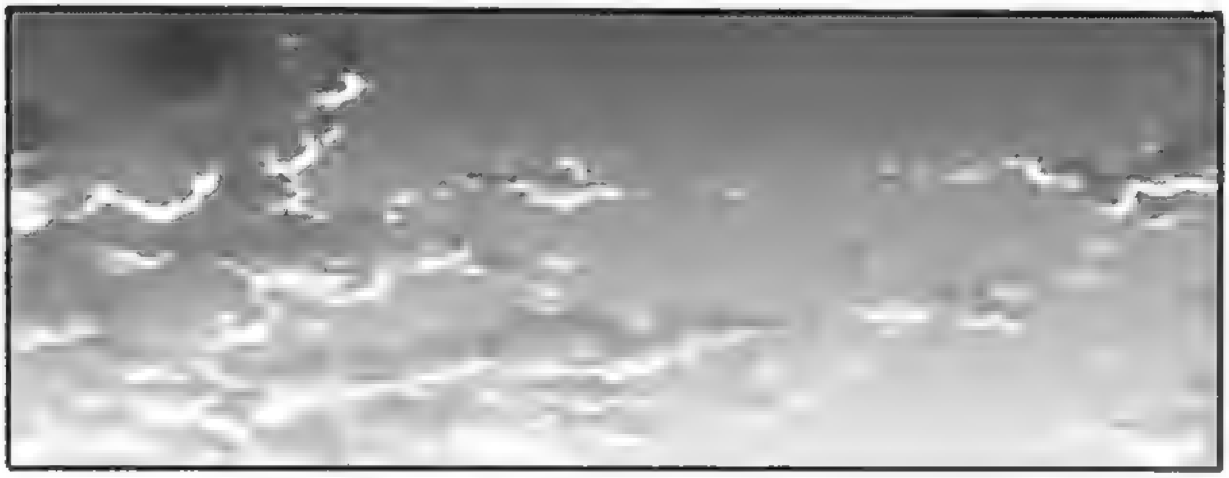

THAT'S THE THING ...
...WHERE IS THIS STUDENT RIGHT NOW?
SID-KUN...

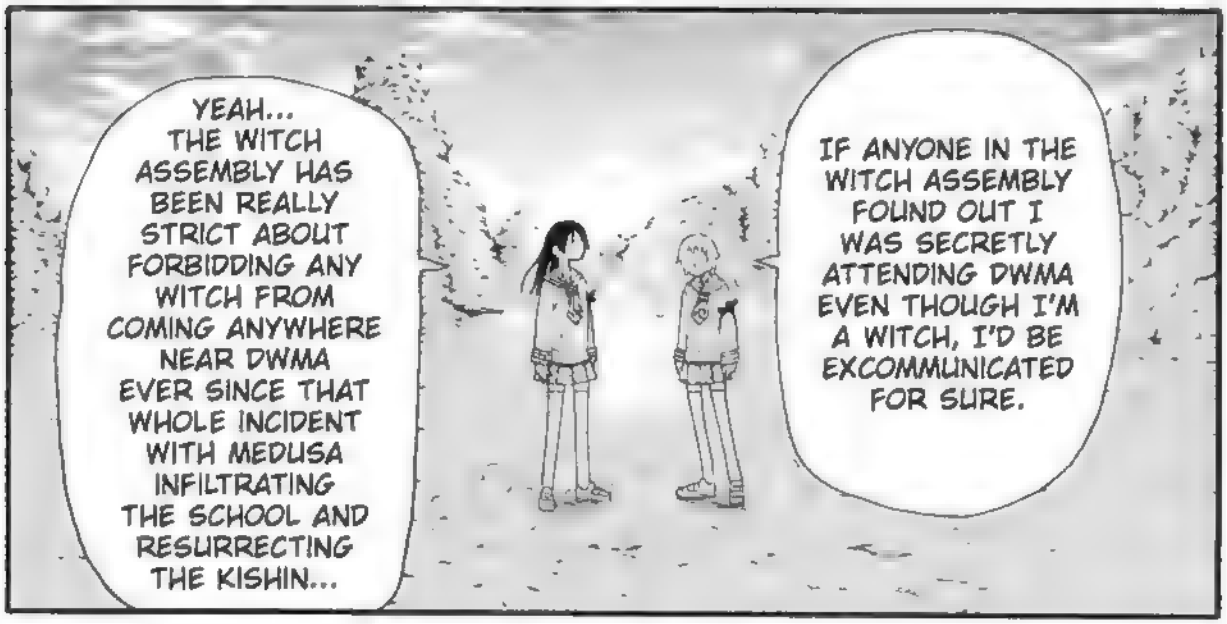
...AT THE MOMENT SHE'S ON AN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ASSIGN-MENT.
JOMA JOMA ...
...DUB-LAHSA...
SOME-WHERE ON EARTH...
JOMA JOMA ...
...DUB-LAHSA...
WITCH MASS
COME NOW, MABA-SAMA. THIS WAY. .
IT'S SO HARD LEADING A DOUBLE LIFE LIKE THIS.
HANG IN THERE. I'M WITH YOU ALL THE WAY...

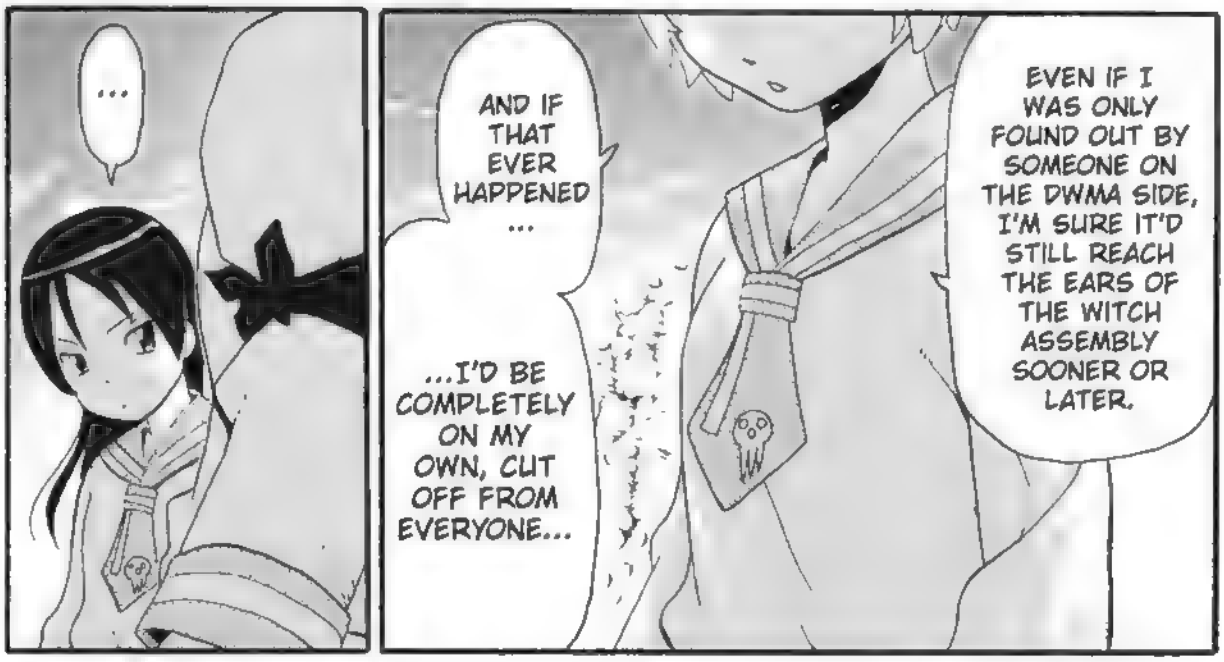
...KIM.

WE'VE GOTTA HURRY AND GET SOME MONEY SAVED UP...
PUSUN (SNORT)

SOUL EATER




YEAH... THE WITCH ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN REALLY STRICT ABOUT FORBIDDING ANY WITCH FROM COMING ANYWHERE NEAR DWMA EVER SINCE THAT WHOLE INCIDENT WITH MEDUSA INFILTRATING THE SCHOOL AND RESURRECTING THE KISHIN...
IF ANYONE IN THE WITCH ASSEMBLY FOUND OUT I WAS SECRETLY ATTENDING DWMA EVEN THOUGH I'M A WITCH, I'D BE EXCOMMUNICATED FOR SURE.

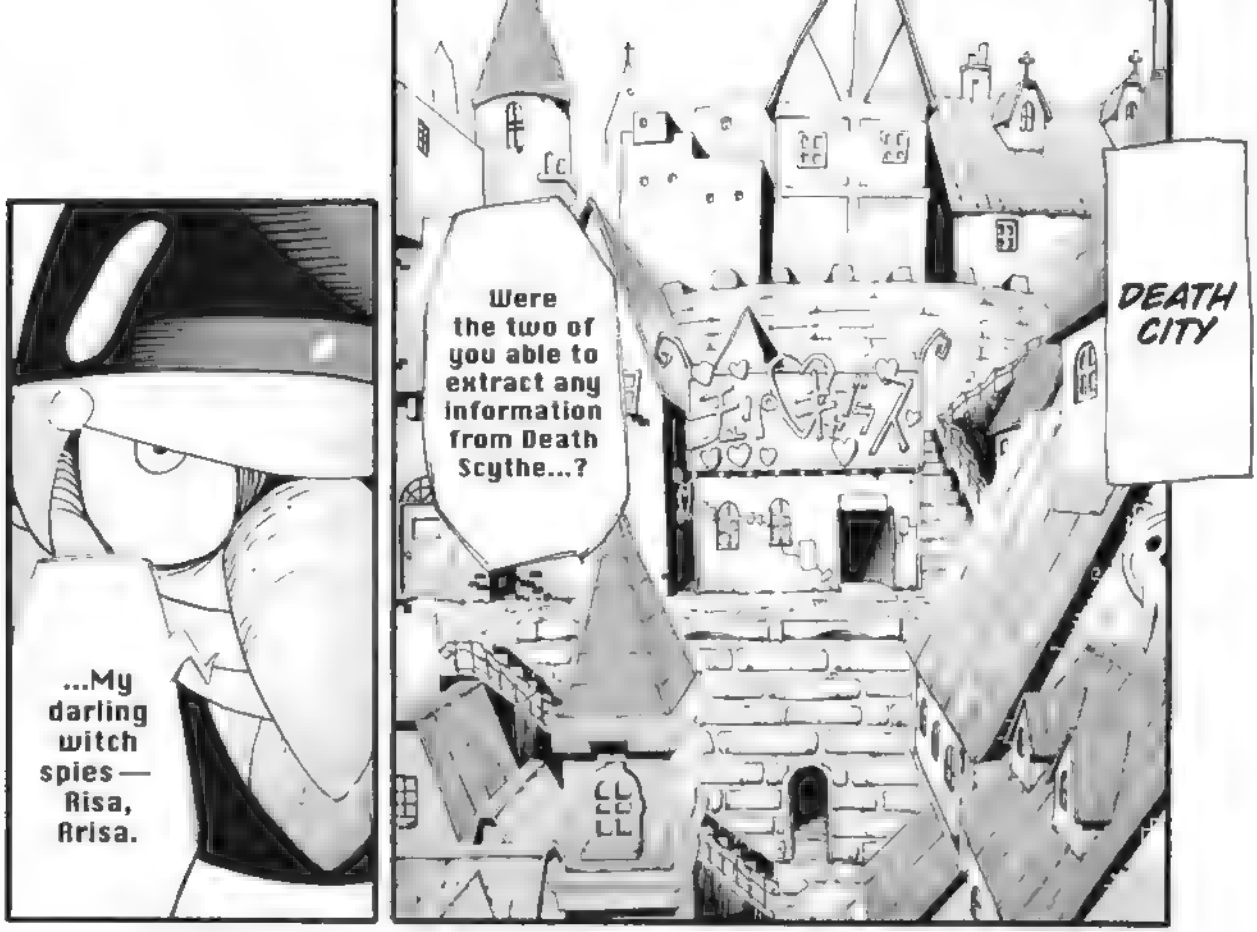

...
AND IF THAT EVER HAPPENED ...
...I'D BE COMPLETELY ON MY OWN, CUT OFF FROM EVERYONE...
EVEN IF I WAS ONLY FOUND OUT BY SOMEONE ON THE DWMA SIDE, I'M SURE IT'D STILL REACH THE EARS OF THE WITCH ASSEMBLY SOONER OR LATER.

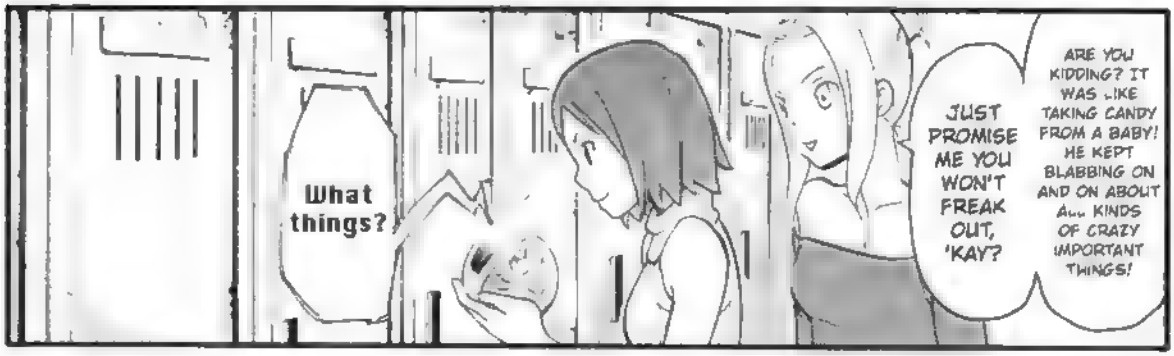
JACKIE ...
WELL, WE'VE MANAGED TO MAKE IT THIS FAR WITHOUT BEING DISCOVERED, RIGHT?
I'D NEVER LEAVE YOU ON YOUR OWN, KIM. I'M WITH YOU NO MATTER WHAT.

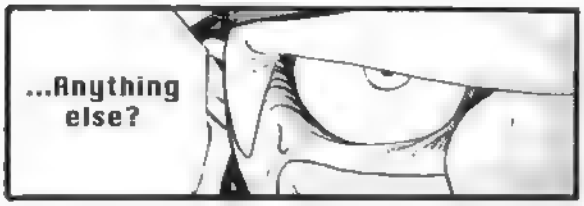
I WAS SO FOCUSED ON GETTING OUT FROM UNDER THE WITCH ASSEMBLY THAT I DIDN'T STOP TO THINK HOW IT WOULD AFFECT YOU...
I'M SO SORRY, JACKIE...

RIGHT !!
ABAN-DONING FRIENDS IS SOME-THING WE JUST DON'T DO.
OH, COME ON... WE'RE DWMA STU-DENTS!
RIGHT, KIM?

CHAPTER 44: THE CHOICE


DEATH CITY
Were the two of you able to extract any information from Death Scythe...?
...My darling witch spies — Risa, Arisa.
SIGN: CHUPA♥CABRA'S


What things?
JUST PROMISE ME YOU WON'T FREAK OUT, 'KAY?
ARE YOU KIDDING? IT WAS LIKE TAKING CANDY FROM A BABY! HE KEPT BLABBING ON AND ON ABOUT ALL KINDS OF CRAZY IMPORTANT THINGS!


...Anything else?

...IT'S LIKE, ALL DEATH SCYTHE'S GOTTA DO IS JUST, YOU KNOW, SNAP HIS FINGERS AND...OMIGOD. IT'S THAT THING, YOU KNOW? LIKE WHEN YOU SNAP YOUR FINGERS, RIGHT? WELL, DEATH SCYTHE SAYS WHEN HE DOES IT, IT COULD, LIKE, TIP THE WHOLE. WORLD. ECONOMY.
THAT'S SOME SERIOUS STUFF, RIGHT?
...ACCORDING TO WHAT WE HEARD AND ALL...
OH YEAH, AND THEN... UM, LIKE...

...THE REAL POWER AT DWMA ISN'T THE SHINIGAMI. AT. ALL! ...I KNOW, RIGHT? IT'S ACTUALLY DEATH SCYTHE WHO PULLS ALL THE STRINGS!
I MEAN, LIKE, ISN'T THAT, LIKE, BAD OR SOMETHING? ...TOTALLY, RIGHT?
LIKE, FROM WHAT WE HEARD, IT'S LIKE...
OH. MY. GOD. ...RIGHT?
IT'S LIKE... I MEAN...

OH, I KNOW! AND WHEN I DROPPED THOSE ICE CUBES INTO DEATH SCYTHE'S LAP, IT WAS LIKE... YOU KNOW, HE KINDA TOOK IT LIKE ALL SEXY AND STUFF, RIGHT? I WAS LIKE, OMIGOD...!
AND DEATH SCYTHE WAS ALL COOL AND STUFF...LIKE HE DOES THAT KINDA THING ALL THE TIME, RIGHT? AND SO THEN I WAS, LIKE... DOUBLE FREAKED OUT! IT WAS SOOO FUNNY!
DIDN'T YOU? ♪
...SHE, LIKE... ACTUALLY DROPPED TWO OR THREE ICE CUBES!
OH, RIGHT! RIGHT! ...'MEMBER THAT, RISA? THAT WAS SO FUNNY. OMIGOD, WHEN SHE HEARD IT, SHE WAS, LIKE, SO SCARED...
PACHIN (SLAP)
HUH!? WHAT WAS THAT?
And you girls believed him??
You girls actually believed that?
OH, RISA-CHAN! ARISA-CHAN!
CUS-TOM-ERS. GET READY.
!!
!!
KYA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA! ♪
.....
.....
I CAN'T EVEN MUSTER THE ENERGY TO GET MAD...
SEE YA LATER!
...
YOU CAN TOTALLY COUNT ON RISA AND ARISA.
BUT WE'LL, LIKE, GET YOU EVEN MORE STUFF THAN THIS NEXT TIME, 'KAY? FOR SURE.
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE ASKED FOR US BY NAME OR SOME-THING, SO...

UHH...
KYORO
キョロ
KYORO (GLANCE)
キョロ

SO... HOW DO YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?

BIKU (JUMP)
ビクッ!!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, DEATH SCYTHE. OOH! I SEE YOU BROUGHT A FRIEND WITH YOU TODAY! ♪

I NEED YOU TO ACCOM-PANY ME TO DWMA.
YOU'VE BOTH BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING WITCHES.

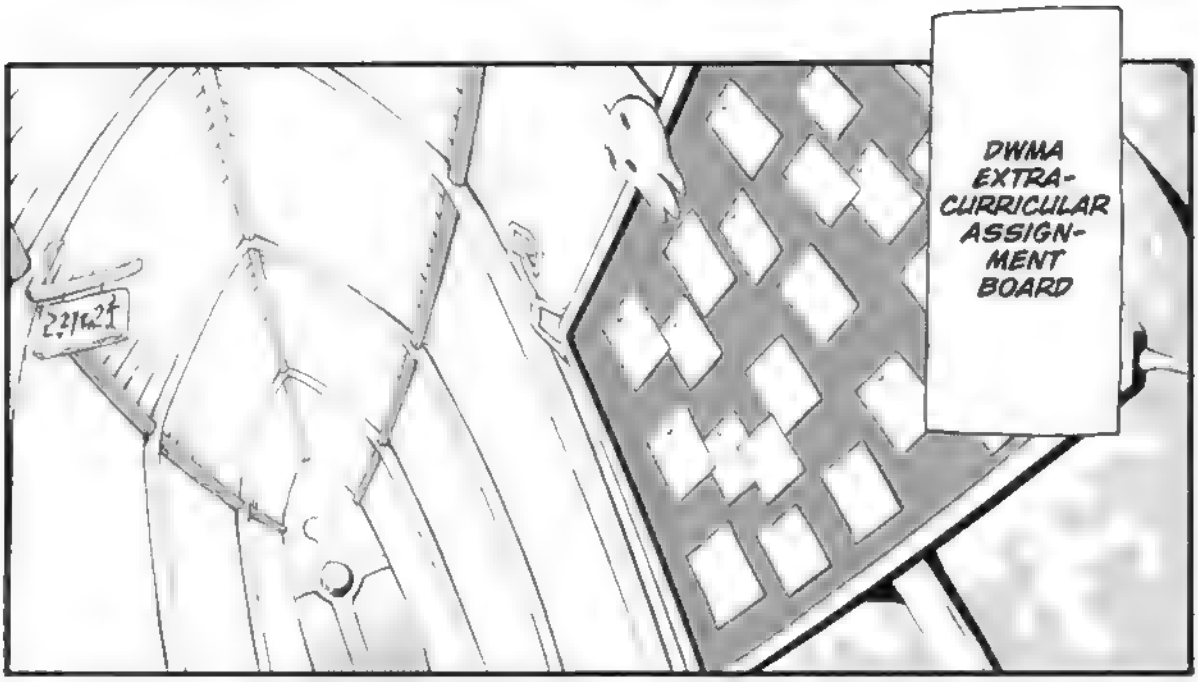
GII (CREAK)
WHAT'S THE MAT-TER?
.....?

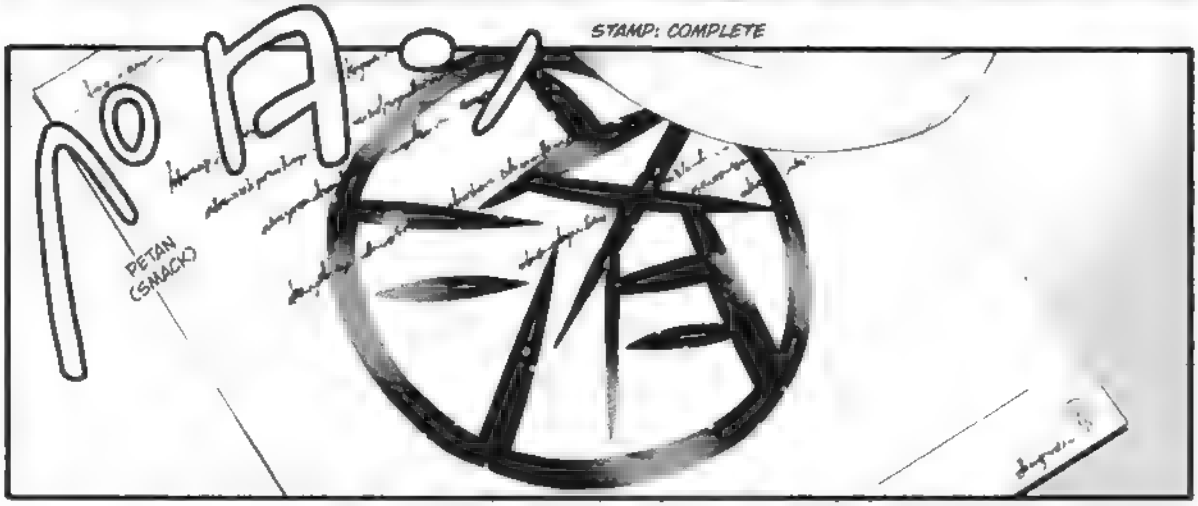
GEH!? WHOA, HOLD ON... RISA?
EH!?

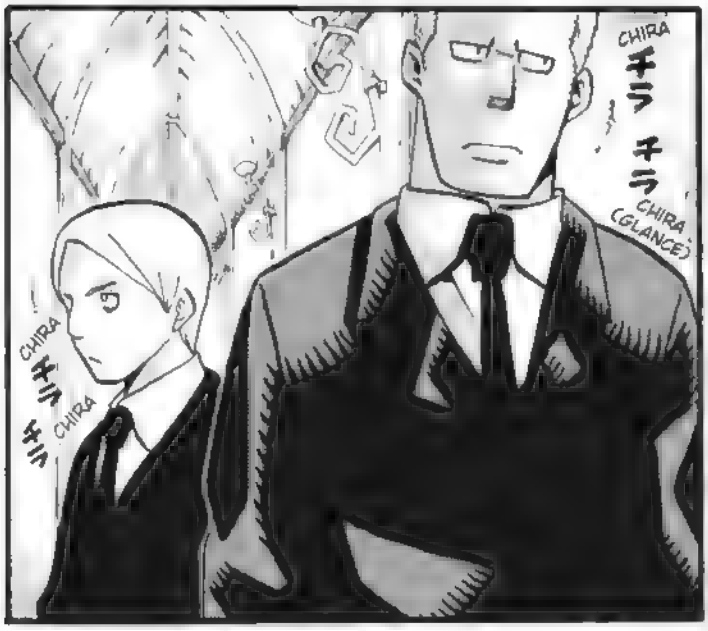
ZA (ZOOSH)
KI (GLINT)

WE HAVE HIGHLY SKILLED MEISTERS POSTED ALL AROUND THE OUTSIDE OF THE CLUB TOO.
THERE'S NO ESCAPE.
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.

I COME TO THIS PLACE ALL THE TIME...
IT'S QUITE A SHOCK.
THOSE TWO? I'M SURE THEY'RE PROBABLY GUILTY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
MMPH! MMPH!
...SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WEAR THESE GAGS.
WE CAN'T HAVE YOU TWO USING ANY MAGIC ON US...
...THAT MEANS KIM'S A WITCH TOO...
THEN IF WE ASSUME THAT THE LIST WE GOT FROM THE ANONYMOUS TIP IS CORRECT...
YOU'RE ABSO-LUTELY RIGHT.
ALL WE CAN DO AT THIS POINT IS JUST FIND KIM AND HEAR WHAT SHE HAS TO SAY FOR HERSELF, RIGHT?
I MEAN, WITCH OR NOT... IT MAY NOT BE WHAT WE THINK.
THOSE GIRLS WE JUST ARRESTED— RISA AND ARISA...I HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING THEY'RE BAD PEOPLE OR ANYTHING...

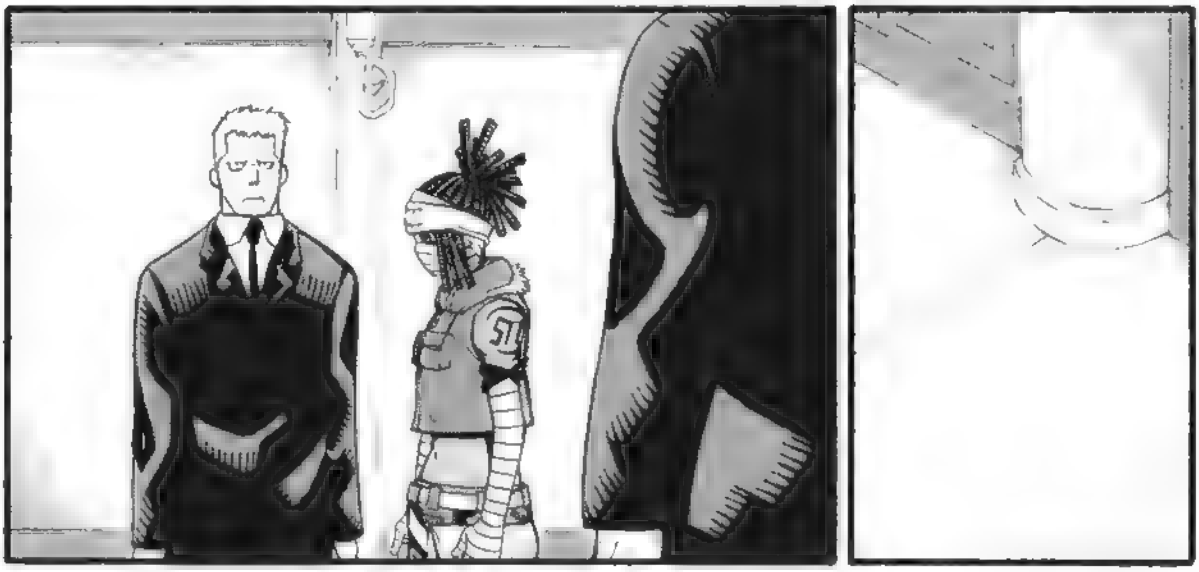

DWMA EXTRA-CURRICULAR ASSIGN-MENT BOARD


STAMP: COMPLETE
PETAN (SMACK)


CHIRA チラ
CHIRA チラ (GLANCE)
CHIRA チラ
CHIRA

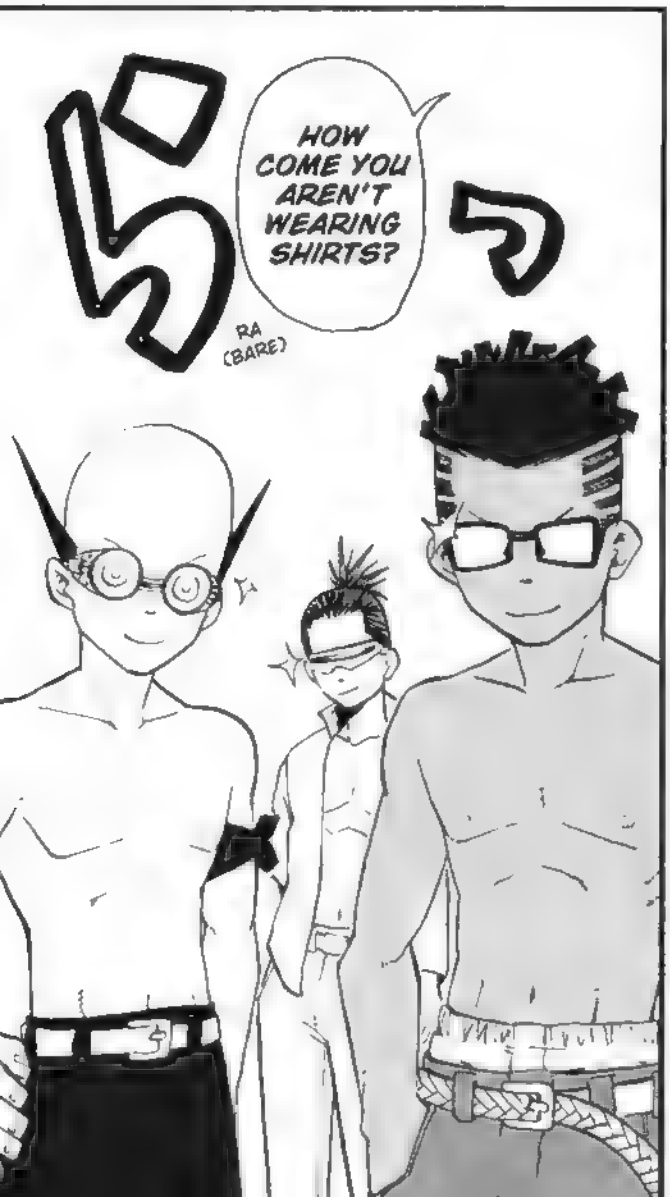
THANK YOU, MA'AM! ♪
SURE THING, HONEY. GOOD JOB!!

YES'M.
YEP.
AND DON'T CATCH COLD.
YOU LET ME KNOW THE MINUTE KIM AND JACKIE GET BACK, ALL RIGHT?
OKAY, GUYS... JUST REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU.



TAKE IT EASY. WE DON'T EVEN KNOW FOR SURE IF SHE'S A WITCH YET. JUST GO EASY ON HER.
NAIGUS-SAN, IT DOESN'T APPEAR THAT KIM HAS RETURNED HERE YET EITHER.

DWMA!! FRONT GATE!!!

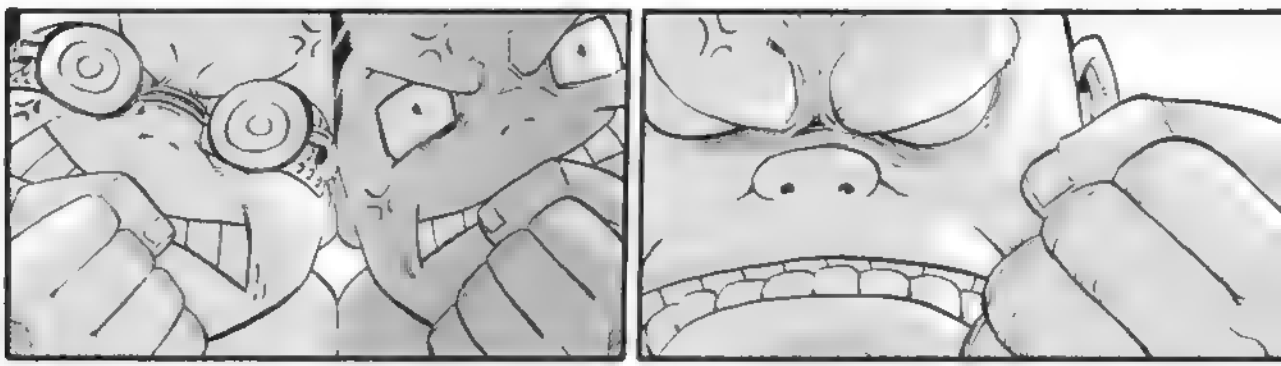

HOW COME YOU AREN'T WEARING SHIRTS?
RA (BARE)

ANYONE FROM OUR CLASS?
EVERY-ONE'S BACK FROM THEIR ASSIGN-MENTS.

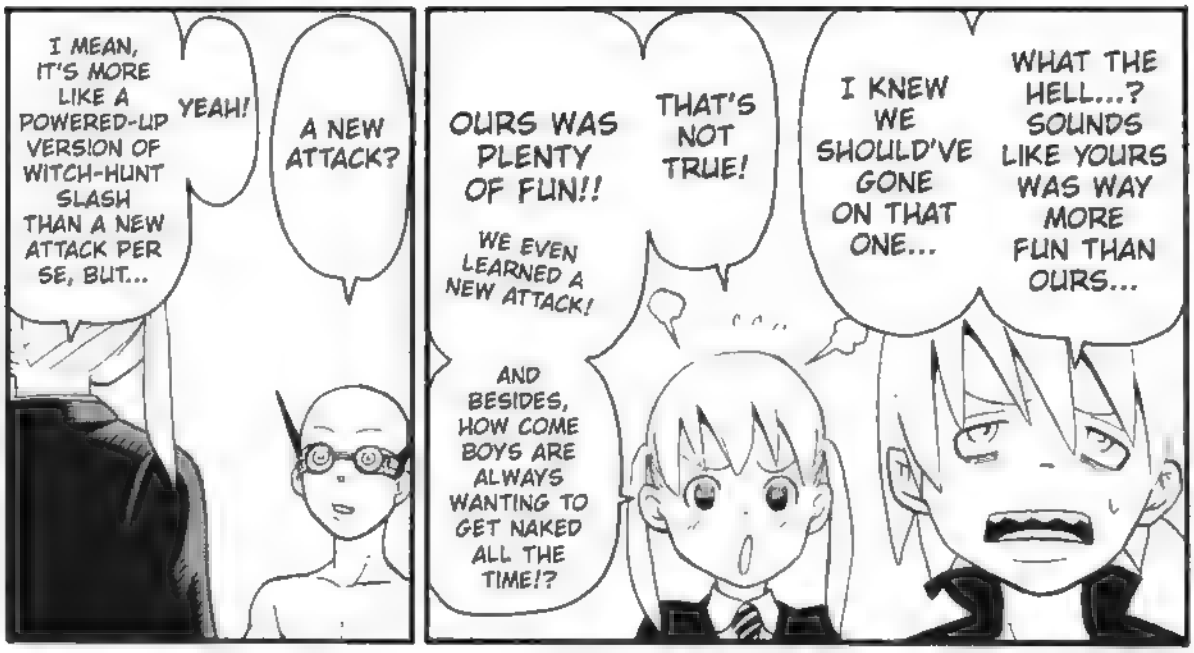
HEY, KILIK. HEY, OX-KUN.
!?

YO! SOUL! MAKA! YOU GUYS JUST GOT BACK?
WHERE IS KID?

GRAAAAWR!!!
BRING IT ON, GIANT!! SHOW US YOUR WRATH!! YOU WANT A PIECE OF US, COME AN' GET IT!!
WE JUST GOT BACK FROM DUKIN' IT OUT WITH AN ANGRY GIANT!
NOW THAT YOU ASK!



...WE ALL GOT NAKED AND DANCED AROUND THE CAMPFIRE.
IN THE END...


I MEAN, IT'S MORE LIKE A POWERED-UP VERSION OF WITCH-HUNT SLASH THAN A NEW ATTACK PER SE, BUT...
YEAH!
A NEW ATTACK?
OURS WAS PLENTY OF FUN!!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
WE EVEN LEARNED A NEW ATTACK!
AND BESIDES, HOW COME BOYS ARE ALWAYS WANTING TO GET NAKED ALL THE TIME!?
I KNEW WE SHOULD'VE GONE ON THAT ONE...
WHAT THE HELL...? SOUNDS LIKE YOURS WAS WAY MORE FUN THAN OURS...

YEAH. LIKE, WHO'S BRAINIEST... I SAY, WHO CARES. LEAVE IT TO THE FLEAS. AND THE NERDS.
THAT STUFF IS SO LAME, HUH?
GIMME A SEC— I GOTTA TAKE THIS DOWN.
HO-HO! THAT'S REALLY INTERESTING!
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, A SINGLE BLOW IS JUST AMAZINGLY MORE POWERFUL THAN BEFORE.
THE SCYTHE TAKES ON A DIFFERENT LOOK, AND THE ATTACK ITSELF IS DELIVERED MORE STRAIGHT ON INSTEAD OF COMING AROUND, AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I THINK IT MIGHT BE EASIER FOR AN ENEMY TO SEE IT COMING.
AND THEN YOU KNOW WHAT ...?

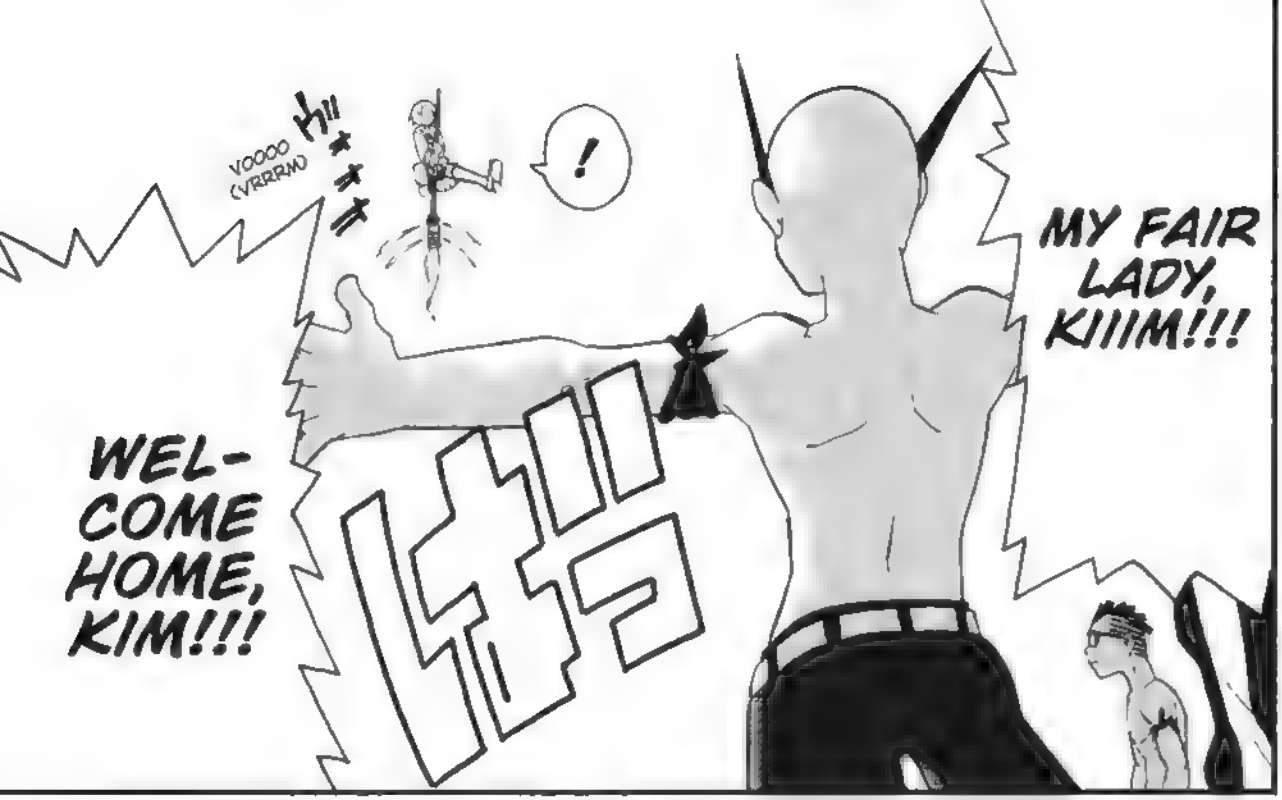
DEVIL-HUNT SLASH ...
OH YEAH? WHAT'D IT LOOK LIKE? DID YOU TRY IT OUT?
IN THAT CASE, I'LL BET YOU PROBABLY COULD'VE PLAYED IT PRETTY WELL, RIGHT?
IT WAS LIKE... SORTA ALONG THE LINES OF A TALKING DRUM.
IT WAS THIS REALLY COOL-LOOKING PERCUSSION INSTRU-MENT!
LIKE YOU TWO ARE ANY DIFFER-ENT...
YO, SOUL, THAT REMINDS ME. WHEN WE WERE ALL DANCING AROUND THE CAMPFIRE, I SAW THIS THING LYING OFF TO THE SIDE.
TCH!!

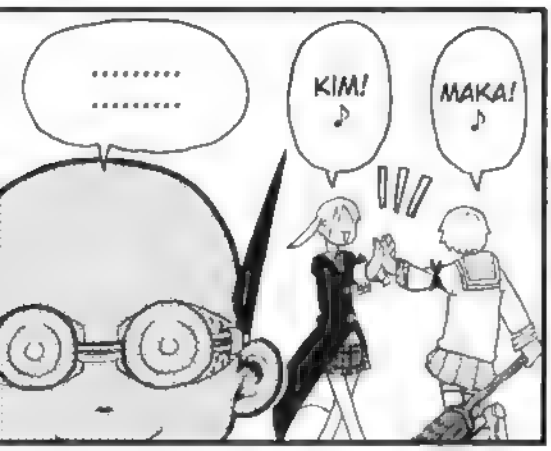
...WITH AN ATTACK LIKE THAT, WE MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO LAND A BLOW ON MEDUSA.

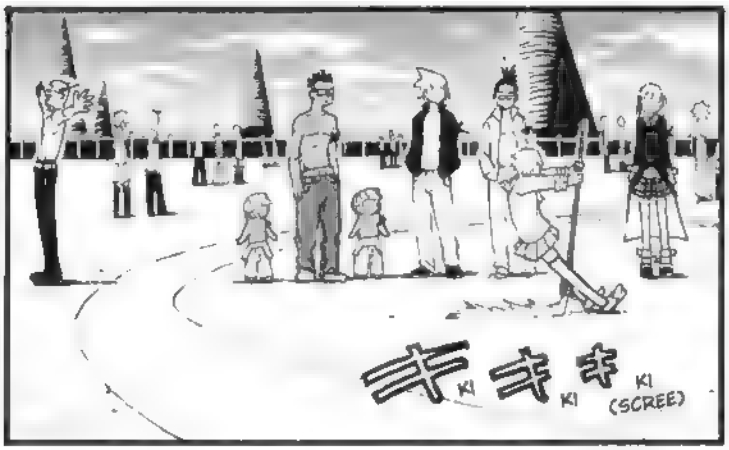
ピクン
PIKU
ピクン
PIKU (TWITCH)

WHAT'S UP, OX-KUN?
HUH?
I SENSE SOME-THING ...
I...

JUST YOU WAIT, MEDUSA!

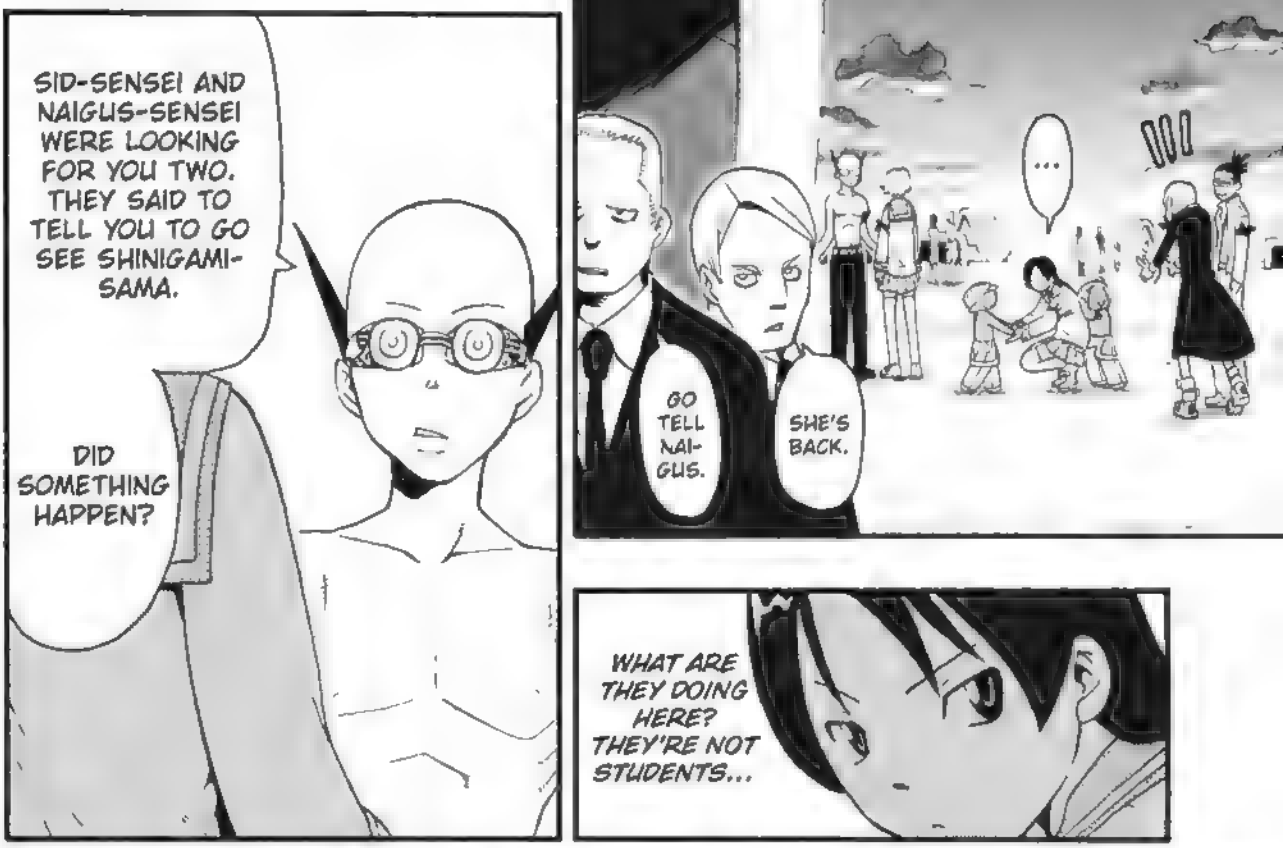

VOOOO (VRRRM)
!
MY FAIR LADY, KIIIM!!!
WEL-COME HOME, KIM!!!


.....
.....
KIM! ♪
MAKA! ♪


KI
KI
KI (SCREE)

YES, I DID!! WELL, ACTUALLY... 90% OF THE REASON I'M WAITING FOR YOU HERE IS BECAUSE I REALLY WANTED TO SEE YOU...
...BUT I'M ALSO SUPPOSED TO GIVE YOU A MESSAGE.
IF YOU'RE FISHING FOR SOME KIND OF TIP, YOU CAN FORGET IT.
WHAT, YOU MADE A SPECIAL TRIP OUT HERE JUST TO GREET ME...?

WELCOME HOME, KIM. YOU'RE UNHARMED, I PRESUME?
YEAH... OKAY, OKAY...
YOU'RE NOT WEARING A SHIRT.


SID-SENSEI AND NAIGUS-SENSEI WERE LOOKING FOR YOU TWO. THEY SAID TO TELL YOU TO GO SEE SHINIGAMI-SAMA.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
...
GO TELL NAI-GUS.
SHE'S BACK.
WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE? THEY'RE NOT STUDENTS...

...DO YOU THINK ...?
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
BOSO (WHISPER)
!?
KIM.

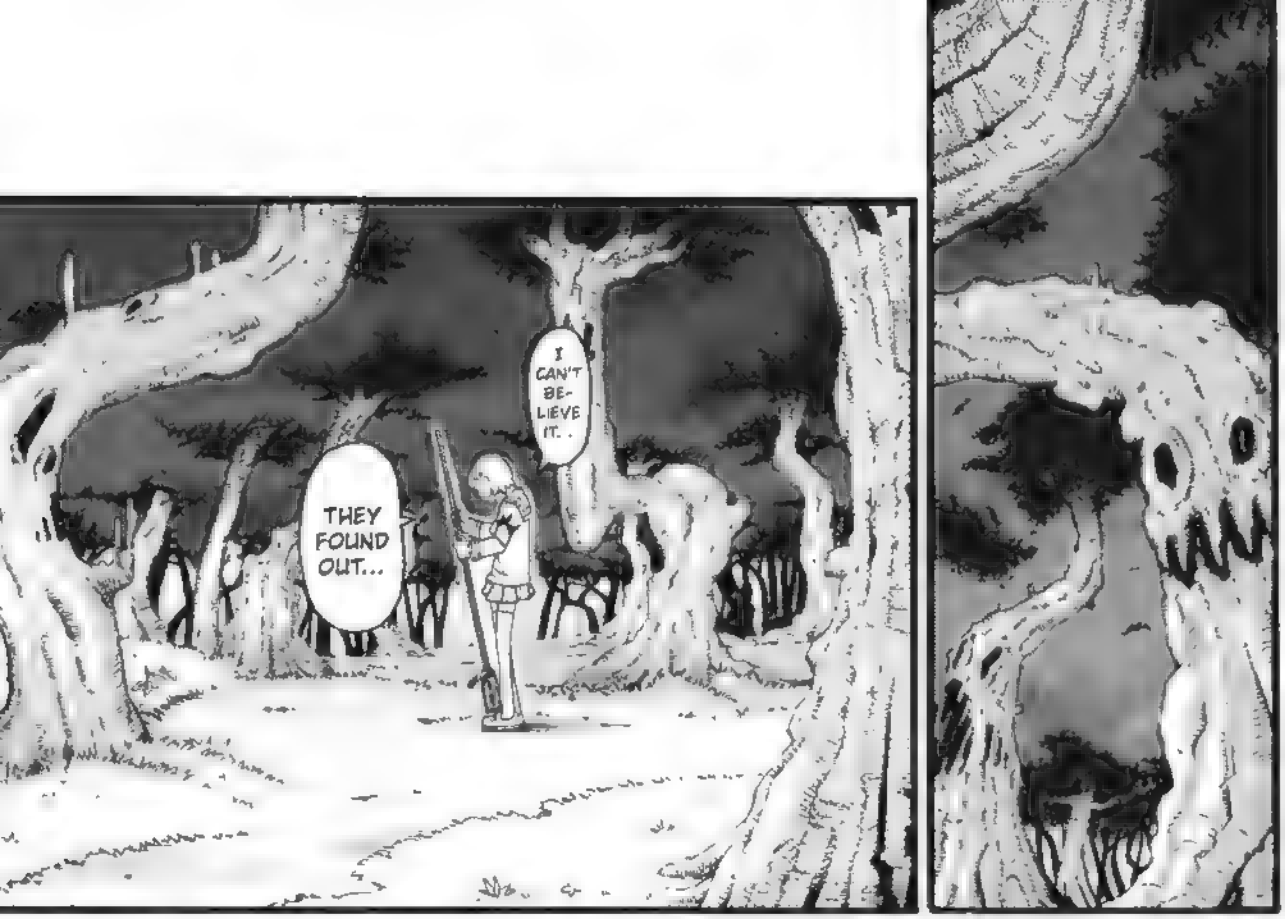
KIM... JACQUE-LINE...
...COULD YOU GIRLS COME WITH ME FOR A MOMENT?
?
?

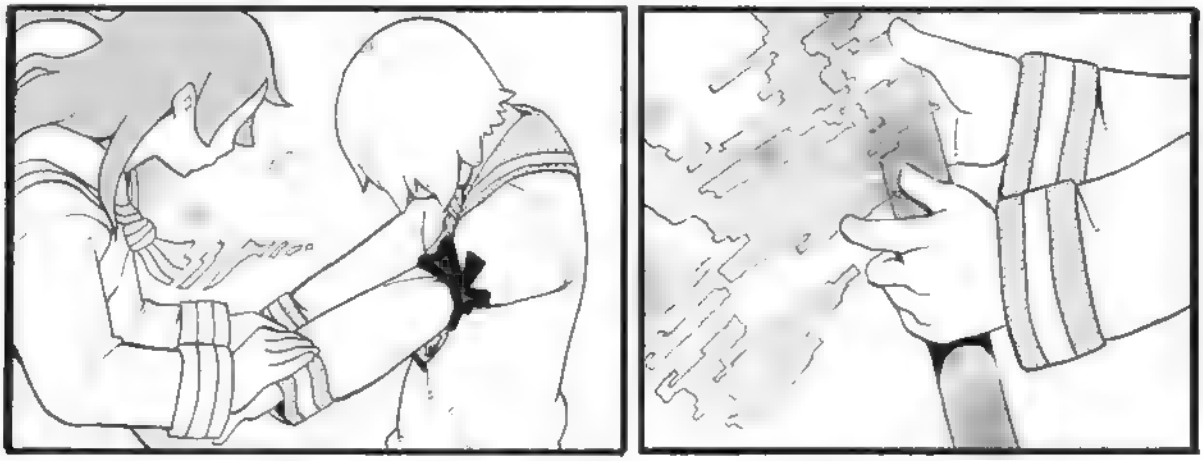
YOU HEARD THE LADY. MOVE IT.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT.
WHAT FOR?
JUU (SIZZLE)
OW! HOT!
I TOLD YOU NO ROUGH STUFF.
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF HER.
HEY.
MERA
MERA (CRACKLE)
SHUBO (FWOOM)
ON IT!
JACKIE!

WAIT, KIM! WAIT!!
NO! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
DO
.....
...!!!
DO
DO
(VRM)
DO
DO
DO
.....
...!!!
DO
DO

WAIT ...
...DON'T DO SOMETHING YOU'LL REGRET!
DO
COME BACK!
WE'RE PREPARED TO LISTEN TO YOUR SIDE OF IT!!
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA!
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT ...? ..... NAIGUS-SENSEI?
GOU (WHOOSH)
YOU BAS-TARD!! THAT WAS A STUDENT !!
!!
TCH ...
WE LET HER GET AWAY.
!!

KIM, JACKIE... PLEASE JUST DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH.
DON'T LOSE YOUR WAY.
DON (SHOVE)
YOU TREATED HER LIKE A CRIMINAL...


I CAN'T BE-LIEVE IT. .
THEY FOUND OUT...



THEY KNOW I'M A WITCH NOW...I CAN NEVER GO BACK TO DWMA EVER AGAIN ...
WHAT DO I DO...!?

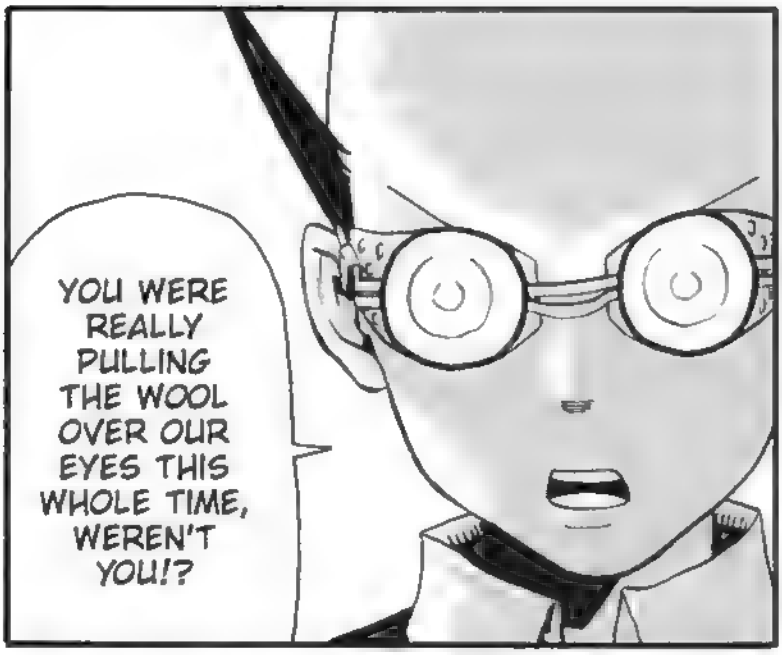
AND RIGHT ABOUT NOW...

...EVERYONE ELSE MUST BE THINKING...

I WONDER WHAT NAIGUS-SENSEI WAS SAYING TO ME BACK THERE...

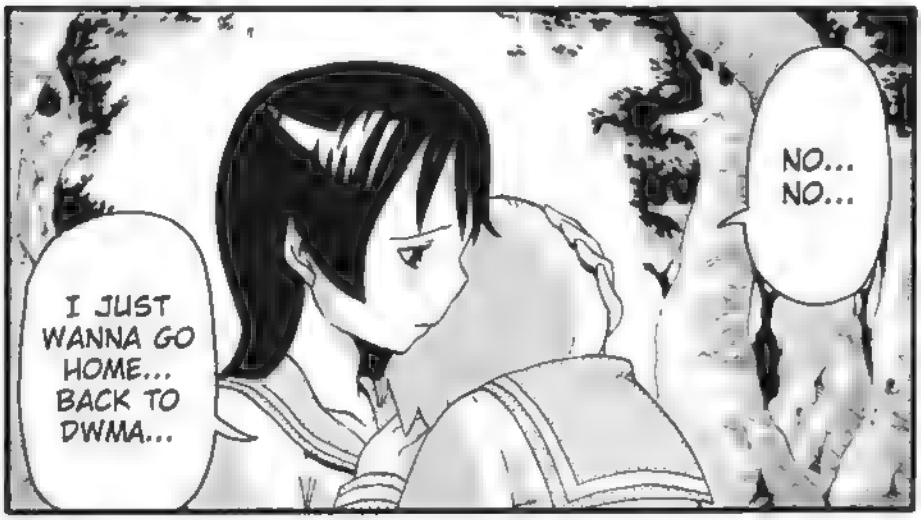
...BUT NO, I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT...

EVEN OX...



I WAS ALWAYS EMBARRASSED BY YOUR FEELINGS FOR ME...BECAUSE EVERYONE WAS WATCHING.

PART OF ME REALLY JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOCK IT OFF...

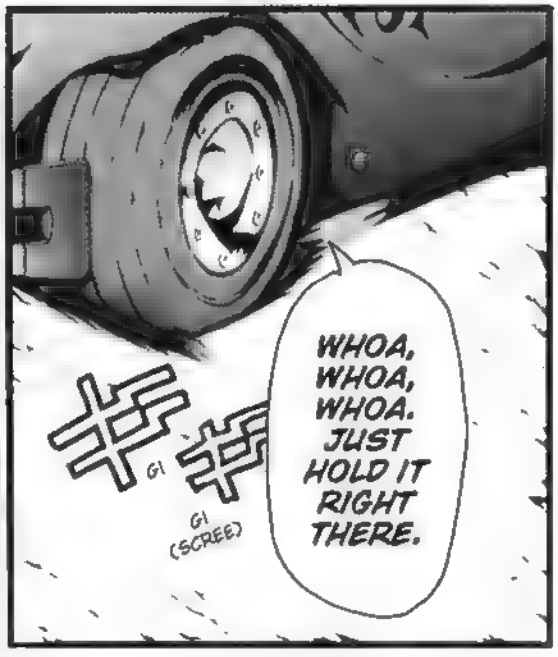


...BUT...

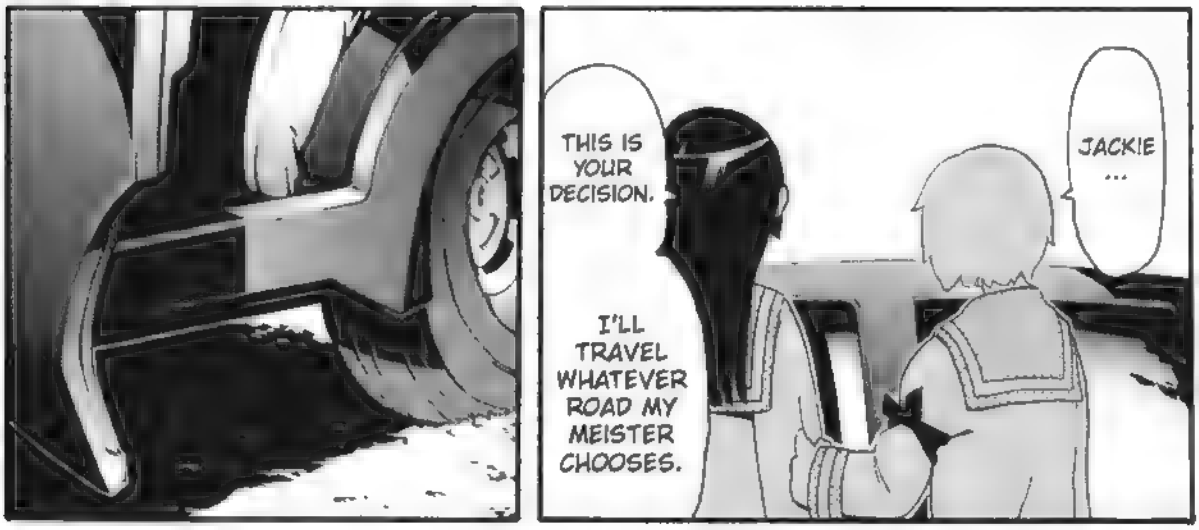
I'M GONNA BURN IT TO A CRISP, JUST IN CASE.
YOU DON'T THINK THAT'S ...!?

A SP... SPIDER ...!!
!!

AND IT'S A REALLY SWEET LUXURY CAR TOO!!
A CAR? IN THE MIDDLE OF A FOREST?

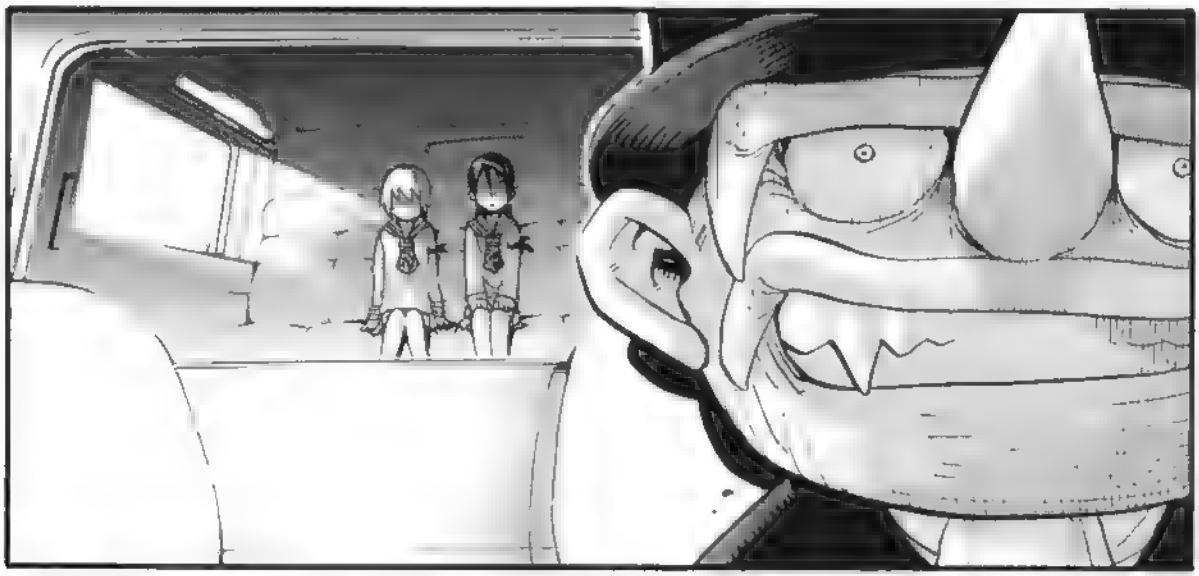

GI
GI (SCREE)
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA. JUST HOLD IT RIGHT THERE.

WELL, GO ON... GET IN.
UNLESS YOU GIRLS HAVE SOMEWHERE ELSE TO GO...?
NO NEED FOR YOU GIRLS TO EXPLAIN YOUR-SELVES.
I WATCHED THE WHOLE THING THROUGH THE SPIDER JUST NOW.
I'M SURE YOU GIRLS HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOUR SITUATION ALREADY.
YOU'RE BOTH BEING HUNTED DOWN BY YOUR BELOVED DWMA AS WE SPEAK.
YOU OLD GEEZER... YOU'RE FROM ARACHNO-PHOBIA, AREN'T YOU!
YOU'RE AN ENEMY OF DWMA!
SO NO, WE'RE NOT GETTING INTO YOUR STUPID CAR!
SADLY, MY GIRL, THE WALLS BETWEEN RACES WILL NEVER BREAK DOWN.
BUT ARACHNE-SAMA IS ALSO A WITCH... AND SHE UNDERSTANDS WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.
LOVELY MISS KIM...A LOVELY YOUNG WITCH LIKE YOU, RUTHLESSLY PURSUED BY INTOLERANT FOOLS...
NOW WHERE'S THE JUSTICE IN THAT?


JACKIE ...
THIS IS YOUR DECISION.
I'LL TRAVEL WHATEVER ROAD MY MEISTER CHOOSES.

STEP INSIDE THE CAR AND SEE WHAT AWAITS YOU...
...A FIRST-CLASS WORLD OF WEALTH AND LUXURY!!

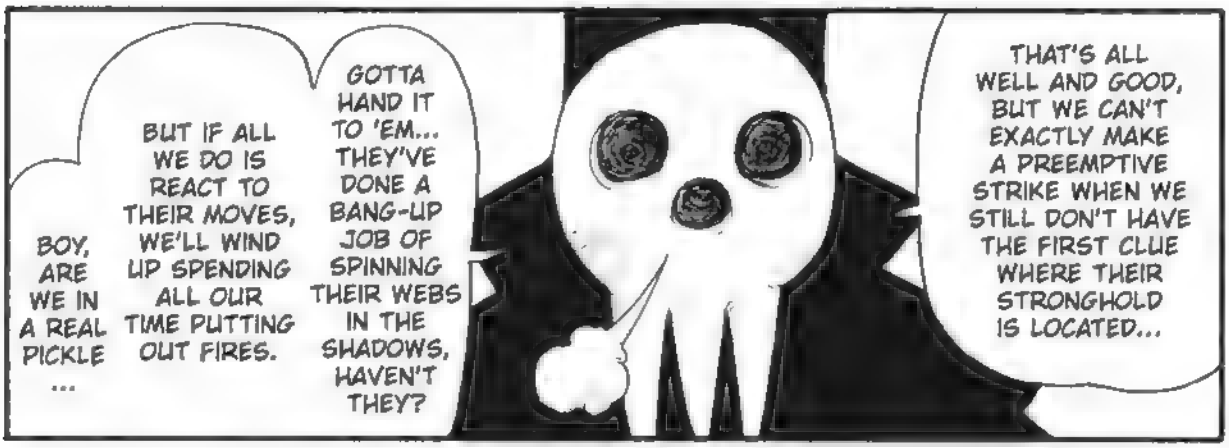
WE CAN'T GO BACK...

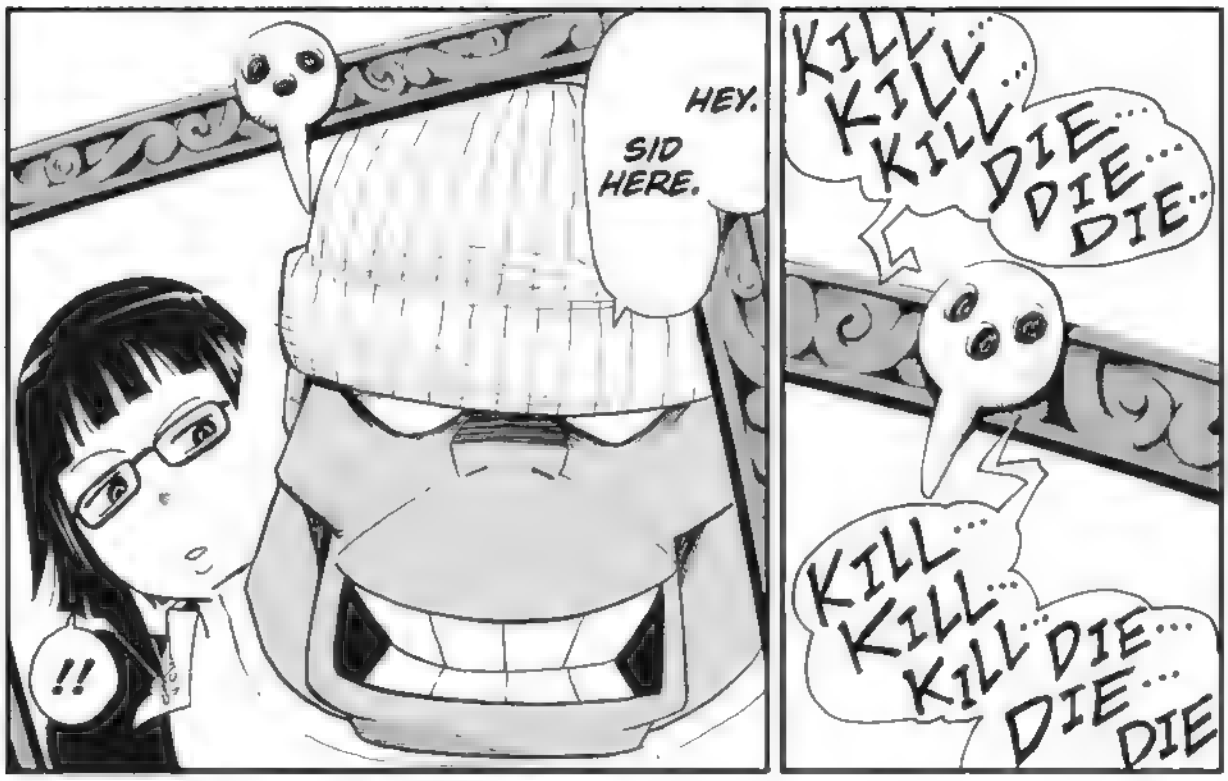


RELAX, GIRLS.
YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT A THING. FOR YOU GIRLS, I'LL BECOME YOUR SUGAR DADDY LONGLEGS.

BACK AT DWMA ...
Our East Asian and African branch offices came under attack... and both suffered massive blows.
Arachnophobia is still on the offensive.
...This is the fifth attack so far.
Once again, they gained tactical advantage by using the threat of "BREW" against us to force our hand in battle.
BOY...LOSING "BREW" TO THEM TURNED OUT TO BE A REAL BUMMER FOR US, DIDN'T IT...?
...
WE'RE GONNA USE "BREW"!
DON'T!!
WHOO-HOO!
ATTACK!!
BASE
THEN THEY SWOOP IN FROM THE SIDE AND ATTACK OUR BASE WHILE WE'RE LOOKING THE OTHER WAY.
EVERY TIME THEY PULL "BREW" OUT OF THEIR POCKET, WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO DROP EVERYTHING AND MOBILIZE.

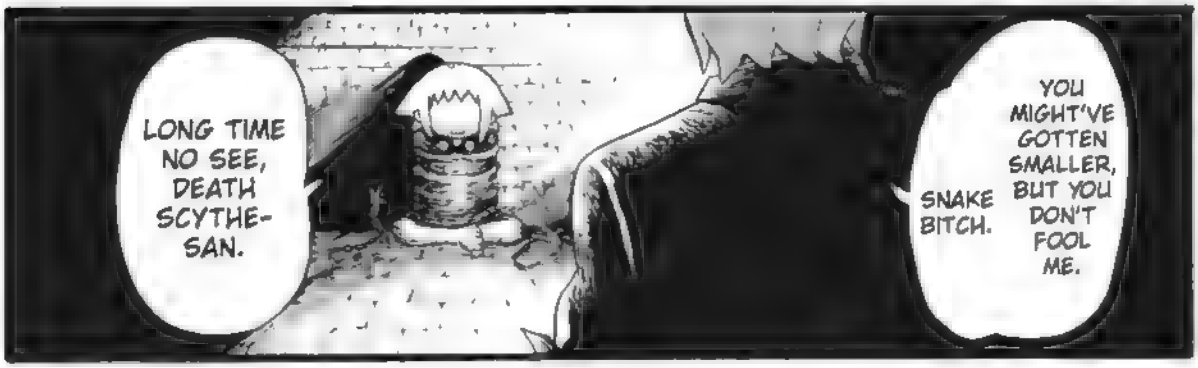
Who knows how long it'll be before they decide to use "BREW" to make impossible demands of us...
The longer we delay, the worse this war gets for us.
Arachnophobia continues to expand the scope of their activities even as we speak.


BOY, ARE WE IN A REAL PICKLE ...
BUT IF ALL WE DO IS REACT TO THEIR MOVES, WE'LL WIND UP SPENDING ALL OUR TIME PUTTING OUT FIRES.
GOTTA HAND IT TO 'EM... THEY'VE DONE A BANG-UP JOB OF SPINNING THEIR WEBS IN THE SHADOWS, HAVEN'T THEY?
THAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT WE CAN'T EXACTLY MAKE A PREEMPTIVE STRIKE WHEN WE STILL DON'T HAVE THE FIRST CLUE WHERE THEIR STRONGHOLD IS LOCATED...


!!
HEY. SID HERE.
KILL... KILL... KILL... DIE... DIE... DIE...
KILL... KILL... KILL... DIE... DIE... DIE

SOMEONE HAS TURNED UP CLAIMING TO BE THE ONE WHO SENT US THE LIST OF NAMES OF THOSE THREE WITCHES IN DEATH CITY.
WHAT IS IT?
SORRY TO INTER-RUPT...
...BUT THIS IS AN URGENT MATTER.
YES...
FOR THE TIME BEING, I PLACED THE PERSON IN THE DUNGEON.
EH!? WHERE? AT DWMA ...!?
.....
.....
WELL... THE THING IS...
I KNOW NONE OF US WANTED THAT LIST TO BE ACCURATE... BUT IT WAS.
SO WHY DID YOU THROW THE INFORMANT IN THE DUNGEON?
THE DUN-GEON?

DWMA DUN-GEONS.
YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK WE'D FORGET THAT EVIL FACE OF YOURS, DID YOU?
WHY THE HELL DID YOU COME BACK, ANYWAY?


LONG TIME NO SEE, DEATH SCYTHE-SAN.
SNAKE BITCH.
YOU MIGHT'VE GOTTEN SMALLER, BUT YOU DON'T FOOL ME.

I JUST DON'T SEE THE POINT IN TALKING TO YOU. YOU BORE ME.
YAWN...
ISN'T DR. STEIN AROUND?
YOU RESURRECTED THE KISHIN... AND NOW THE WHOLE WORLD'S ABOUT TO BE PLUNGED INTO CHAOS FROM THE SPREAD OF THE MADNESS!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'VE DONE!?

WAIT... HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW!?
HOW DID YOU...?
...HE LEFT, DIDN'T HE?
OH, BUT THAT'S RIGHT...
INFOR-MATION THAT YOU'RE DESPERATE TO HAVE...
I KNOW THINGS THAT NONE OF YOU KNOW. I HAVE INFORMA-TION.
THAT LIST OF NAMES I SENT YOU... THE THREE WITCHES IN DEATH CITY. IT WAS ACCURATE, WASN'T IT?
OH, YES... I KNOW THINGS ...
BULL-SHIT...
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE COMING HERE WITH A LINE LIKE THAT.
I CAME TO MAKE A DEAL.

!!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW THE LOCATION OF BABA YAGA CASTLE? THAT IS, ARACHNO-PHOBIA'S HEAD-QUARTERS?
SHALL I TELL YOU?

YOU REALLY THINK YOU'LL GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE? HUH?
YOU? HELP? GIMME A BREAK.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? SHOULD I HELP YOU OUT?
POOR DWMA... BATTED AROUND LIKE A LITTLE BALL BY MEAN OLD ARACHNE ...

I CAME TO MAKE A DEAL.
SOUL EATER 11 END

THAT'S WHY I CAME PREPARED... I BROUGHT THE REAL "BREW" WITH ME.
OH, I'M FULLY COGNIZANT OF THE FACT THAT DWMA WON'T FIND IT IN THEIR CAPACITY TO TRUST ME.

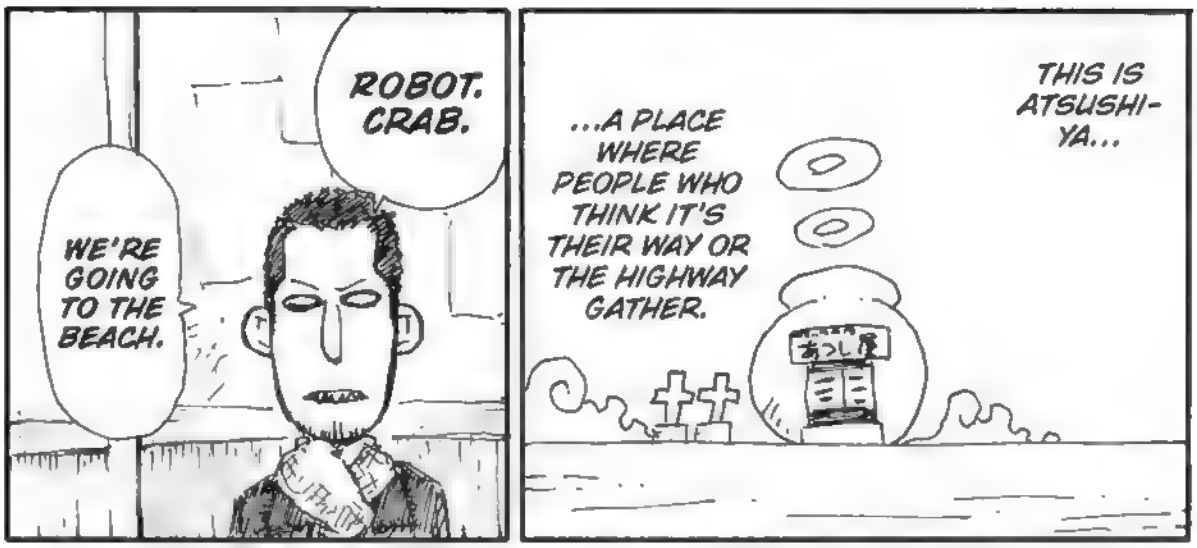
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? "BREW" IS IN ARACH-NOPHOBIA'S HAN—
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THE REAL "BREW" ...?

SOUL EATER

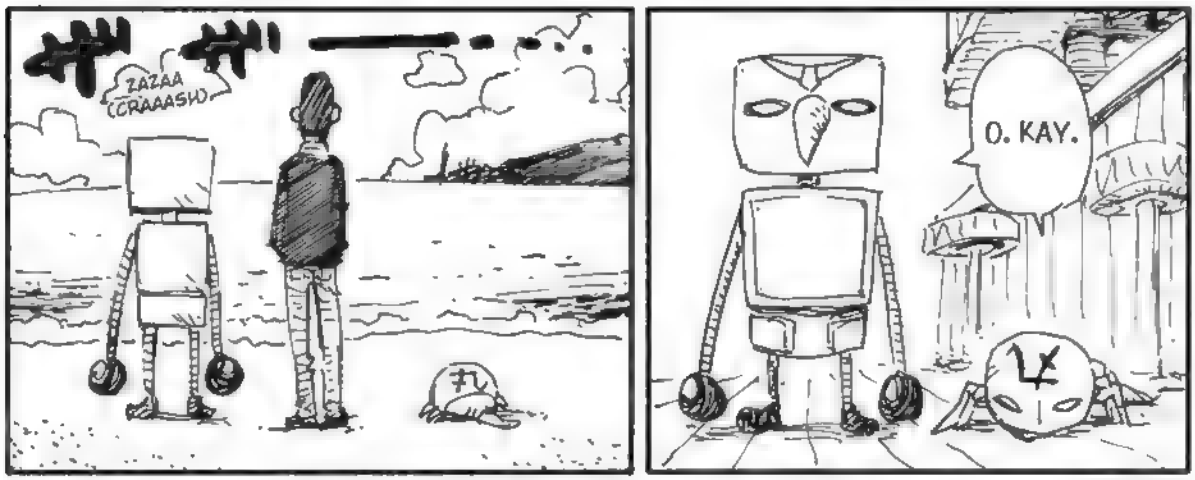
MISTER? SORRY, BUT WE CHANGED OUR MINDS. WE DON'T WANNA DO THIS ANYMORE.
JACKIE, I THINK MAYBE WE SHOULD GO HOME AFTER ALL.
ARACHNOPHOBIA GROWS MORE AND MORE POWERFUL BY THE DAY...!!
WHAT WAS THAT? I COULDN'T HEAR YOU... MY EARS DON'T WORK LIKE THEY USED TO.
WILL DWMA BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST SUCH POWER...!?
HOW'D YOU MANAGE TO GET YOUR PSYCHO-PERV DAD TO LEND YOU HIS I.D. CARD?
Death

WHERE DID YOU SEND CRONA!!?
THE ENEMY OF MY ENEMY IS MY FRIEND!?
MEDUSA WANTS TO TALK WITH ME IN PERSON...?
MEDUSA APPROACHES DWMA WITH THE DEAL OF A LIFETIME...
...THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD TRUST YOU WITH IT!!
AN UTTERLY CRUCIAL OPERATION LIKE THIS...
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!! HOW DO YOU EXPECT US TO SWALLOW THOSE TERMS!!?
...BUT HOW WILL SHINIGAMI-SAMA MAKE THE DESPERATE DECISION...!?
...THEN YOU CAN ALWAYS KEEP RIGHT ON DANCING TO ARACHNE'S TUNE. YOUR CALL.
WELL, IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE TERMS...

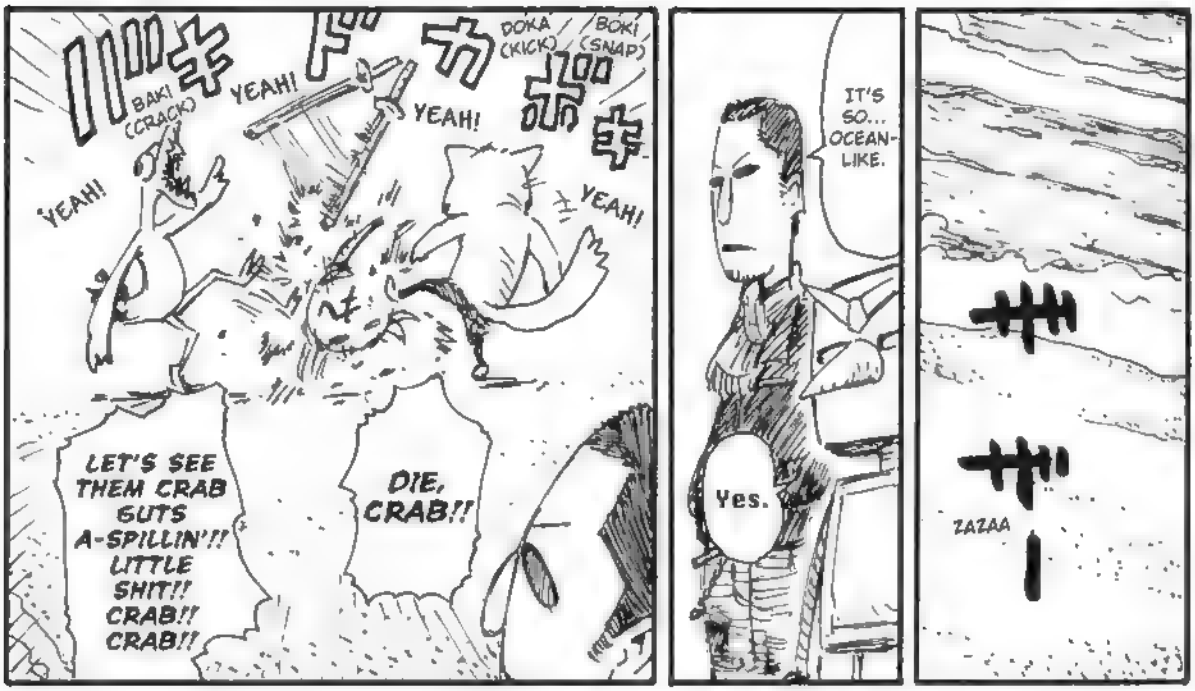
Continued in Soul Eater Volume 12!!


ROBOT. CRAB.
WE'RE GOING TO THE BEACH.
...A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE WHO THINK IT'S THEIR WAY OR THE HIGHWAY GATHER.
THIS IS ATSUSHI-YA...
あつしや

SIGN: KAETTE KITA, ATSUSHI-YA



CRAB: MARU



SFX: BAAAN (DADUM)
He. Is. Dead.
Oh. No... Look...
KNOCK IT OFF!
HEY!
YOU WANNA COME WORK FOR ME? I OWN A PUB.
I KNOW! HEY, YOU TWO!!
Now. Just. The. Two. Of. Us. You. And. I. Are. Left.
The. Rat. Died. And. The. Crab. Died.
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!!
YOU GODDAMN BAS-TARDS!! YOU KILLED MY HELMET CRAB!!
GA (JAB)
...IS ALWAYS GOOD.
FRIENDS ...
PASHA (SPLASH)
SFX: PAN (SLAP)
PASHA
...HAVING MORE...
SURE.

Translation Notes

Common Honorifics

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

-senpai: A suffix used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.

-sensei: A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

Page 44
The name **Borscht 7 Factory** is a pun on the Japanese pronunciation of borscht: *borushichi*, which sounds like "ball 7" to Japanese ears. In this manga, it's spelled "Boru 7" but meant to evoke "borscht" (also because of the Russia connection, obviously), thus "Borscht 7" captures a little of both parts of the pun.

Page 49
The suffix *–tan* is a cutesy form of *–chan*, and the name "Blair" can be shortened to "Bu" in Japanese, so **Bu-tan** is just a cutesy form of Blair-chan.

Page 61
The name "The **Flying Dutchman**" comes from a legend about a ghost ship doomed to sail the sea forever, never to return home. In some versions of the tale, "The Flying Dutchman" refers to the ship itself, and in others it refers to the ship's captain. Some retellings have it that the captain is only allowed to go to port every certain number of years (the number varies in each version) to seek out a woman to share his fate. Seeing the ship is considered a bad omen.

Page 64
The **kamaitachi** (demon weasel; literally "scythe-weasel") is a fearsome mythological Japanese monster taking the form of a weasel with scythe-like claws. Maka's attack uses a homophonous kanji spelling that translates to "Scythe-Threat Cut," but the image of the kamaitachi monster is meant to be invoked by the name.

Page 83
In Norse mythology, Niðhöggr (often anglicized as "**Nidhogg**") is the name of the dragon who gnaws at the roots of Yggdrasil, a great tree known as the "world tree." In this series, Nidhogg is also the name of the Flying Dutchman's ghost ship.

Page 85
The various sound words describing the Flying Dutchman's slobbering and smacking his lips and fingering his temple include "**gripper**" and "**crystal**" among them because they are made from the sounds in *guri* and *chuppa*. The whole sequence is just playing with words and doesn't mean anything in particular.

The Dutchman's gasp of *hatto* (sudden realization) is also obviously a pun for "hat."

Page 86
Liz's motto is a nod to Dostoyevsky's acerbic unnamed narrator's famous line in *Notes from Underground*: "I say let the world go to hell, so long as I can have my tea whenever I want it."

Page 125
The Japanese names of the Clown's attacks—**Clown Machine Gun, Clown Lariat**—are portmanteau words based on Japanese sound similarities. "Clown Machine Gun" is *dokeshin gan*, where the first word is a blend of *dokeshi* (clown) and *mashin* (machine), and "Clown Lariat" is *pieriatto*, a blend of *piero* (also clown, from the French word *pierrot* of the same meaning) and *rariatto* (lariat, which in this case refers to a kind of pro wrestling move similar to a clothesline).

Page 132
The Japanese pronunciation of **Letter-"I"-Hunt Slash** is *ichi-monji-gari* (literally "letter-one-hunt"), which suggests that the "Letter 'I'" part is meant to be interpreted as the Roman numeral I (for "1").

Page 143
The **witch mass chant** is actually *majo, majo, saraba da* (witch, witch, this is farewell) backward by syllable.

Page 159
A **talking drum** is an hourglass-shaped West African percussion instrument that can be played in such a way as to mimic the rhythms of speech. Traditionally, talking drums were even used to pass complex messages across long distances.

Page 173
When Mosquito says he will become Kim and Jackie's **sugar daddy longlegs**, what he actually says in Japanese is *nagaashi-ojisan* ("Daddy Longlegs"), a term that specifically refers to someone who provides financial support to college students, especially girls. Of course, Mosquito chooses this particular phrase because of the connection to spiders. The usage of the Japanese phrase itself stems from an early 20th-century American popular novel titled *Daddy-Long-Legs*, about an orphan girl whose college fees are paid by a generous rich man whom she has never met.

SOUL EATER⑪

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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